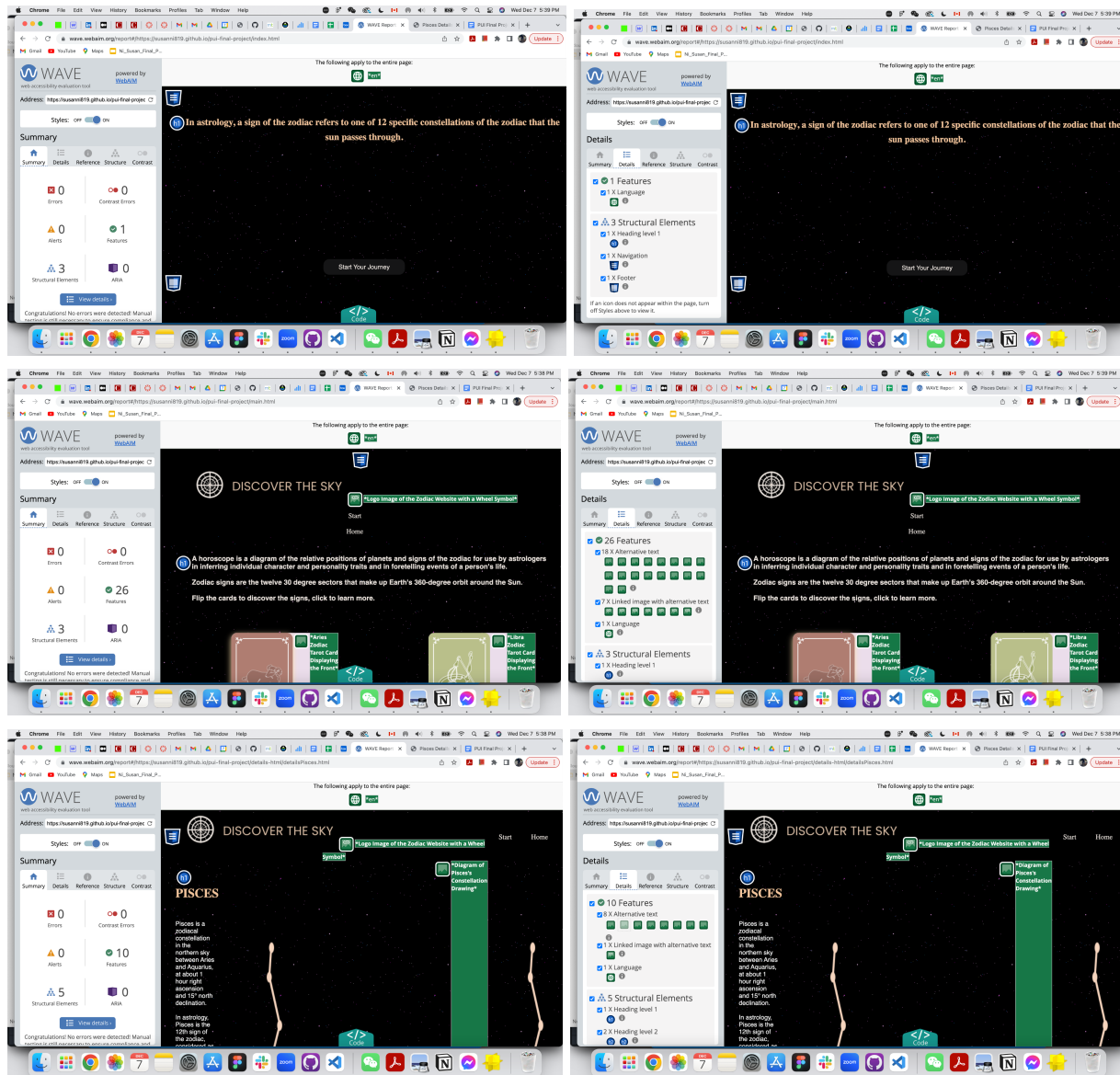# PUI Final Project: Zodiac Website

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05430 Lab D

Screen Size
Large 1200px Small 600px

WAVE Tool Summary and Details

Part 1: In 300 words describe your website
As someone who is really interested in astronomy, my goal for designing this website is to provide a fun way for people to discover the 12 zodiac signs and to learn more about the less

known facts about the signs. Basic information I want to convey on my website include: what the 12 zodiac signs are, what they look like, their names and months, what element they represent, what is their birthstones, personalities associated with these horoscopes, and their relationship with each other. One interesting aspect of my website includes how I chose to represent the 12 signs with 12 cards, each with a front and back. I designed for the cards to not reveal what the name of the signs are so that there would be this "discovery" interaction the visitors of my website would get to experience when they start exploring the layout. Another interesting aspect of my website would be how you have to really click into the individual card's detail's page to learn more about the signs and make new discoveries. As of now, 6 out of the 12 cards are clickable (the active ones have a background glow). One hidden easter egg I incorporated is the color of the cards, they are organized by their elements: fire, earth, wind, and water but it is up to the viewers to discover this surprise. I imagine the target audience of my website to be people from the 14-24 age group as I believe this would be the demographic that would be most interested in the content of my website. As a result of that, while designing my website I tried to incorporate many visual elements and cool graphics (I drew) to keep my audience engaged.

Part 2: Use a bulleted list to describe how a user would interact with your website
- Once the landing page finishes loading, click "start your journey" button on start page to enter the home page
- Scroll down on home page to see all 12 zodiac signs and their cards
- Hover over the cards to see the flipping animation
- Names of the signs are printed on the back of the cards, if the visitor sees one that interests them, click on the card to go to detail's page
- Hover over the image of the constellation to see its major stars labeled
- Scroll down on detail's page to see more content
- Use the navigation bar at the top of the page to either go back to the home page or the landing page
- Clicking on the logo will also reload the page (or take you back to the home screen)

Part 3: Describe what external tool you used
The main external tool I used for my website was PixiJS, which is a rendering library that allows its users to create interactive graphic effects (and even games) for websites they are developing. Since I wanted my website to have a dark color scheme, something I took into consideration since day one was how I might make the cursor stand out against the black background. When I discovered this "mouse-trail" library on PixiJS which creates this special effect of a delayed mouse trail following the cursor, I believed that this was a good solution to my problem. After downloading the library and making adjustments to the codes, I made changes to the size and color of the pointer until it had the effect I wanted. This feature made the position of the cursor a lot easier to be located and its tail also resembled that of a shooting star which I thought was another reason why it seemed an appropriate tool for me to use.

Part 4: Describe how you iterated on your prototypes

It took me many iterations to implement my website and this final design I have right now looks very different from the one I started with. As a designer I have been used to just imagining what I think would look the best and tools like figma made it really easy to achieve smooth transitions and special effects. However, as I learned more about HTML, CSS, and JS I realized that there is actually a gulf between my expectations and my abilities. For example, in my original design I had this giant wheel with 12 divisions (each one representing one of the signs) and the user could spin the wheel and select the sign they wanted to see. In reality, implementing this design was very ambitious and, after some experimentation, I realized that the transitions I was hoping to get were almost impossible to achieve at my skill level. This led me to pivot to this design of 12 tarot cards, which I am now very proud of as well. I believe that this design I have right now actually offers just as much, if not more, fun interactions for the users of my website.

Part 5: What challenges did you experience in implementing your website
While implementing my website, one challenge I encountered was the flipping animation I had in mind for all of my cards. I tried to look for libraries/ APIs which might allow me to achieve this effect but I wasn't able to find any that I liked. In the end I was able to achieve this effect solely by using built-in CSS styling tricks,partly from codes shared by others online, which felt very satisfactory. I also encountered some problems when I tried to adjust the larger screen size to fit the smaller one as I worked on creating the desktop version of my website first. However, after playing around with media queries and looking at examples online I was able to make it work and all my pages now should be responsive.

References
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