1.

Activity introduction

This activity will help you plot your wireframes on a paper grid and plan design considerations for adaptive screen sizes. You'll need the wireframes you created in the previous activity (Begin paper wireframes for your website⬈) to complete this activity. To recap, a wireframe is an outline or a sketch of a product or screen. The paper wireframes you created in the previous activity represent many possible design solutions for your website. In this activity, you'll create two new variations of your homepage that account for different screen sizes so that your website is usable across a variety of devices. This is known as responsive web design.

Responsive web design means implementing changes to the appearance or layout of a website, depending on the device being used to view it and the size of the screen. You'll consider things like, "What elements can be removed, added, or rearranged to fit different screen sizes?" Devices come in all shapes and sizes, so planning for adaptive screen sizes will improve your user experience and accessibility across a range of devices. In this activity, you'll plot your responsive wireframes on grid paper which will help you accurately consider the size and scale of elements.

Responsive web design:

Increases product usability

Creates an improved user experience across devices

Drives mobile traffic

Saves money and time

After completing this activity, you'll have the opportunity to compare your work to an exemplar of two responsive variations of a homepage to check your work. The exemplar will be provided in the following course activity.

Step-by-step instructions

To complete this activity for your portfolio project, follow the instructions below:

Step 1: Review your paper wireframes

First, locate the paper wireframes you completed in the activity that asked you to make paper wireframes for your website⬈. You should have one complete set of paper wireframes made from the starred elements in that activity. Take a moment to double check that you have completed your wireframes. You'll need a complete wireframe of your homepage to complete this activity. If you don't have one yet, go back and complete it before beginning this activity.

Step 2: Prepare your wireframing tools
A pen or pencil and paper is all you need.

Step 3: Access and print the grid paper template
Open the 8 1/2 x 11 inch grid paper template⬈.

From here, make sure you have a printer connected to your computer. Click the printer icon on the website or on your browser. Then, choose your printer and click Print.
If you don't have access to a printer, any paper with grids or lines that you can use to scale your wireframes should work.

Step 4: Create two versions of your homepage that account for different screen sizes
It's time to add responsive web design to your homepage. Start by assuming your desktop homepage wireframe is the largest screen you'll design for. In order to create smaller versions, ask yourself:

What would a medium version look like?

What would a small version look like?

Create your responsive homepage variations on the grid paper template. First, follow the lines of the grid to draw the shape and size of the device screens you're designing for. For a phone screen, you'll want to draw a screen outline that is smaller than the desktop size, and longer than it is wide. A screen outline made for a tablet will be larger than a mobile screen but is still longer than it is wide and will clearly represent the intended device.

Then, using the lines of the grid as a placement guide, move and scale the elements from your desktop homepage onto your new screen sizes. Be sure to carefully consider which UI components will be removed, which will stay, and which will shift position or change their format. Three common elements that save space on smaller screens are hamburger menus, cards, and carousels. These elements were discussed in the video on adjusting page layouts based on screen size⬀.

When you're finished, you should have two new versions of your homepage wireframes: one for mobile devices, and one for tablets.