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## Activity introduction

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In this activity, you'll be building digital wireframes for your responsive website.

Transitioning from low-fidelity paper wireframes to low-fidelity digital wireframes is a big step, so it's important to ask yourself some key questions before you start:

- . Do you have a clear understanding of the layout of the website? It's important to carefully consider the homepage layout in the wireframing stage. There are several homepage layouts that you've learned about in this course.
- . Have you created a few iterations of your paper wireframes?
- . Have you received any feedback about your paper wireframes that could lead to new insights, and are you ready to incorporate useful insights?
- . Are you ready to start considering various visual elements, like typography, color, and images that will go into later versions of your digital designs?

This checklist helps you make sure that you're transitioning to digital wireframes at the correct stage of the design process.

In this activity, you'll start working on the desktop version of the website. Later you'll learn how to adapt the digital wireframes you create for smaller screen sizes, like tablets or mobile phones.

After completing this activity, you'll have the opportunity to compare your work to an exemplar. The exemplar will be provided in the following course activity.



## Step-by-step instructions

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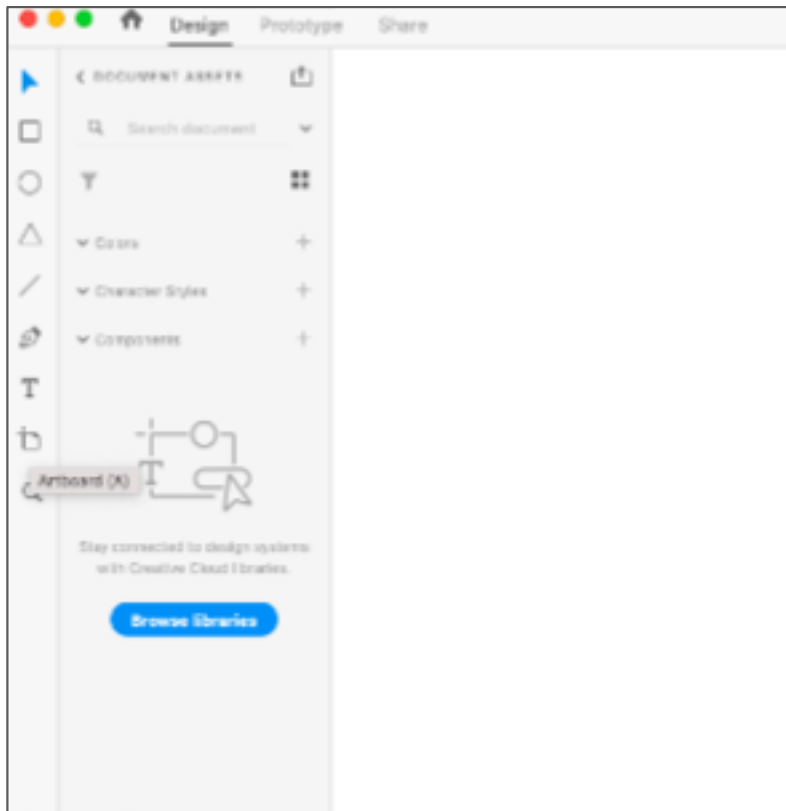
To complete this activity for your second portfolio project, follow the instructions below:

Step 1: Open Adobe XD

If you haven't already done so, download Adobe XD, which is the design tool that you'll be working with to complete your project.

If you're unable to download Adobe XD to your device, you can create your digital designs with Figma. Learn more about how to create digital wireframes for the desktop layout in Figma in the reading: [Create digital wireframes in Figma](#)<sup>↗</sup>.

Step 2: Create an Artboard



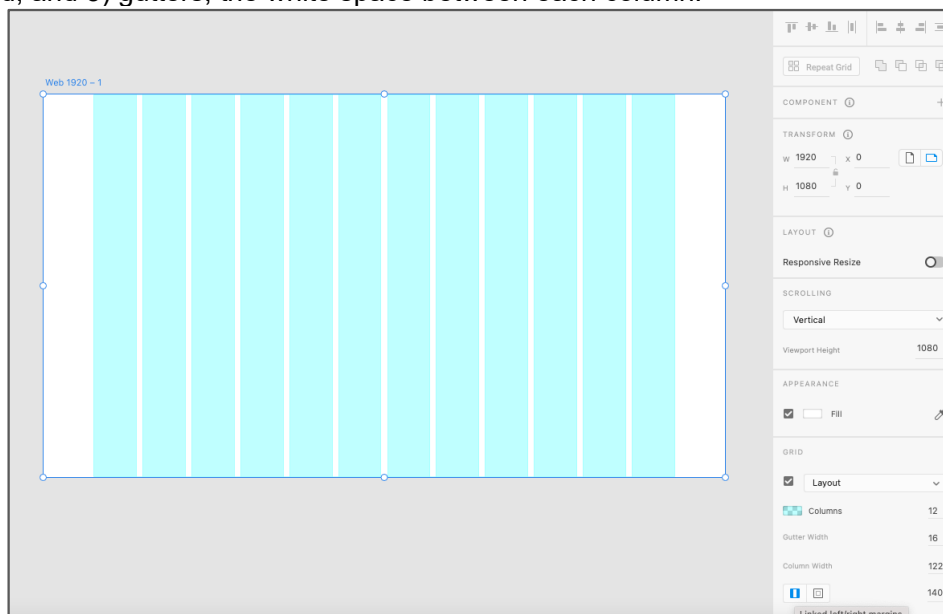
The first step is to create an artboard, a screen that holds all the pages of each app or website you're designing. To do this, click the Artboard tool on the left, or select it with the shortcut (A). Choose the Web 1920 artboard. This artboard is for the homepage. If you want to create artboards for each page of your website, simply copy and paste the original artboard to create duplicate pages.

### Step 3: Study your paper wireframes

In an earlier activity, you were asked to create paper wireframes for the desktop version of a responsive website. If you haven't completed this activity, do so now. To help you remember the layout preferences for your digital wireframes, take a picture of your paper wireframes, and then upload the images. You can also drag the images onto the artboard in Adobe XD.

Your paper wireframes were created on grid paper because the grids on the paper help designers to control the spacing and placement of the elements that are part of the layout. You'll be preparing a digital version of the grid on your artboard in Adobe XD by specifying a layout grid, which will make sure your content is aligned consistently.

The layout grid includes three elements: 1) margins, the distance between the edge of the artboard and layout grid; 2) columns, the vertical bands that are evenly spaced on the grid; and 3) gutters, the white space between each column.




To specify the layout grid:

- . Navigate to the Grid tab on the lower right side of the screen.
- . Select the Layout option.
- . To customize the columns, choose the fill color, number of columns, and width of the columns in the menu on the lower right corner.
- . Then choose the gutter width.
- . For customizing the margins, first, choose the width of the margins (left and right), and then select the Linked left/right margins option.

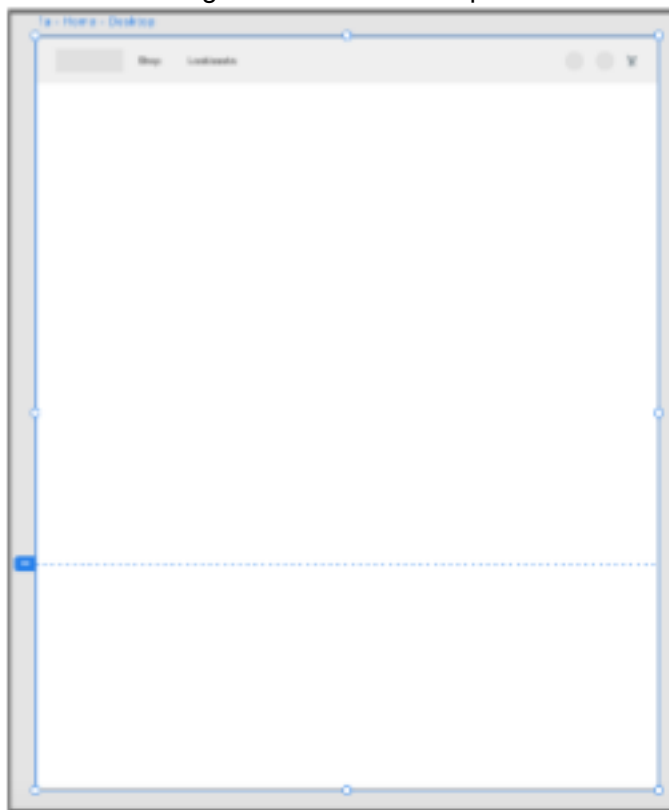
#### Step 4: Populate the artboard with placeholders

Now that the grid has been set up, you can start building the outline of the homepage by filling in the space with different sized rectangles, circles, and squares. Refer back to your paper wireframes and homepage layout plan. You can also check out

[Adobe XD guides](#)  about interface elements.

As you populate the artboard, keep in mind where the fold of the webpage is. The fold is the term used to describe the bottom border of the browser screen. Content that appears above the fold is visible without scrolling, whereas content that appears below the fold refers to any portion contained further down the webpage.

In Adobe XD you can see a marker for the fold by selecting an artboard and looking for the dotted blue line. Note the image below for an example.



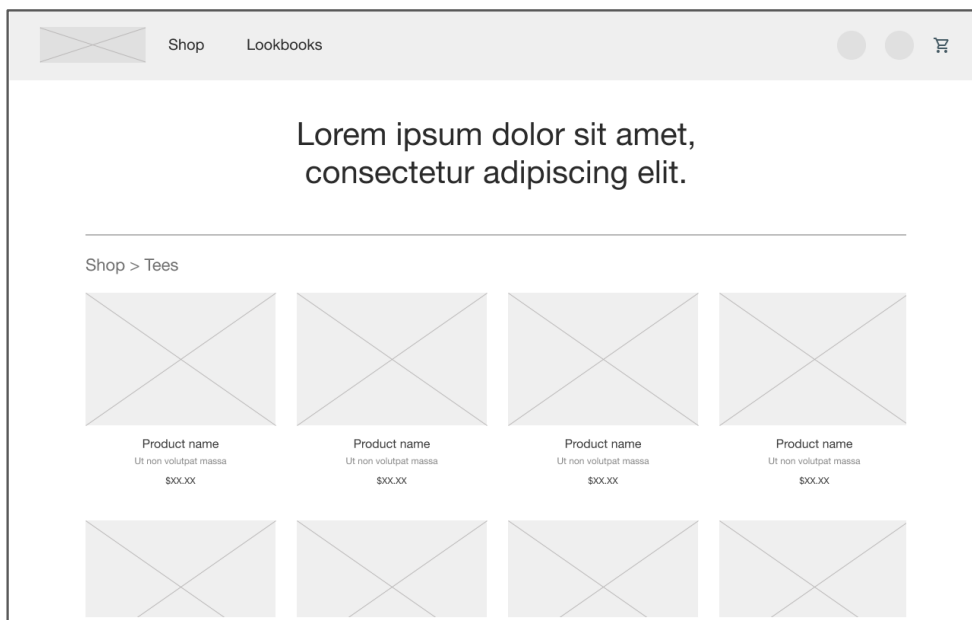
There are no strict rules for how to lay out the page, but common practice is to include the navigation bar and any main calls to action above the fold. That way users are presented with the more important elements immediately upon accessing the webpage. Designing with the fold in mind helps ensure the hierarchy of content is effective.

#### Step 5: Add text placeholders

Go back to the images of your paper wireframes. All the sections with placeholders containing lines can now be replaced with text that indicates each section. It's not important to write in all the text for now. Just fill in enough placeholder text as a guide for when you develop high fidelity designs later.

To indicate a section or heading, create a short phrase to remember where to add text later. For body text, use lorem ipsum, Latin placeholder text that you can use to show where content will go and how a page will be laid out, without adding meaningful content. Search online for "lorem ipsum," then copy and paste the text from there.

Here's an example of using lorem ipsum as placeholder text:



Step 6: Repeat steps 2-5 for the other pages of your design

Apply the same process to the rest of your wireframes. Think about how the pages will scale onto smaller devices. This means things will move around, change, or be replaced by elements that are intended to save space. When you're finished, you should have a full set of wireframes optimized for viewing on a mobile device in addition to your web page wireframes.