A Tour of the Solar System

Overview

A Tour of the Solar System has two main features:
1. A continuous animation of the 9 major planetary bodies in the solar system
2. A convenient navigation bar fixed to the bottom of the screen

Animating the Journey

This project relies heavily on css animations. The first step required binding all the animations to the window scroll position. The javascript necessary to achieve this effect was referenced from: https://css-tricks.com/books/greatest-css-tricks/scroll-animation/.

With this in place, we can now achieve the effect of travelling from planet to planet using the most natural means of navigating a website: the scroll wheel. All planet assets were created in Inkscape. Furthermore, the planets are animated using CSS, except the gas giants Uranus and Neptune which have no animations.

Easy Navigation

Ideally, we would like the user to be able to navigate to each bit of content without having to scroll through the animations. A simple solution that approaches this goal is a navigation bar that tells the user where she is on the page and allows her to navigate back to the beginning or jump to the end. Thus, the navigation bar is composed of three elements:
1. A home button with a tactile hover effect that jumps to the top of the page, which, in this case, is the beginning of the animation
2. An end button with the same hover effect that instead moves to the end of the animation
3. A bar that increases in length depending on how far into the animation the user has gone