Exotic Animal Cards/Javascript Project

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Coding the News

Story/Pitch:

I chose to use my favorite dataset from NYC Open data, which shows calls to Urban Park Rangers reporting animals found in NYC. The dataset is quite large, so focused on exotic animals because they are the most interesting. Using exotic animals narrowed the dataset to 68, which still allows for filtering. I chose to filter them by borough because people want to find animals near them and by animal type (reptile, bird, etc.). That way a reader can filter by animals, even though there are too many to do by species.

Design and editorial decisions:

I began by designing an individual card with HTML and CSS. I wanted to use a green palate because the subject involves finding animals in nature. I found a palate on coolors.co. I was inspired by some of my classmates’ work on the previous project to use rounded corners on the box. I also had the idea of making them look a little like old-school index cards, with important information highlighted as with a marker-highlighter. Also, I narrowed the information that I wanted to highlight on each card to species, location, borough, date, animal condition, and result.

Build process:

After the in-class project on for loops, I went home and immediately made the for loop for this project, using the in-class assignment as a template. I used JavaScript to create the elements of h1, insert the text, and add the highlights on the number of animals, location, and animal condition. It took a bit of cleaning of the dataset to make the json files in the most easy-to-code names (a lot of find and replace all). I got it to work, but they were all in the same card. Then I found a solution in the CSS to make each card separate.

To make the filtering, I used the in-class as a guide again, but it wasn’t quite as direct of a template. It took a lot of fixing and searching to get the code in the right order. When I had the borough dropdown, I had to first manually add animalType to my json data to allow filtering by birds, reptiles, etc. I made a second selector/dropdown but my attempt and filtering didn’t work. I realized from our class examples that I needed to combine the filtering steps instead of having them sequential, then you helped me figure out the logic of the if-else statement.

Finally, I incorporated your feedback to style the introduction and dropdown boxes and make a flexbox to display the cards. I also rearranged the h1 and h2 elements because I had them reversed in the page hierarchy.