Assignment 8: Final Project
PUI: Section E
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Figma Prototype || Website (https://curry-index.github.io/curry-index)

Assignment 8: Write-Up

Gabbi LaBorwit

Introduction

People who love curry try a lot of curry (myself included). It's hard to remember all the places you've tried and which are the best. The curry index solves this problem by helping you remember where and what curries you've tried, and what you thought about them. My website uses local storage to convey information about each curry in a list so users can see the ones they've tried and how they liked them. They can also view the map on the "Map" page to see where each restaurant is.

I believe that my website is interesting because it's novel and could actually be used. It's engaging because there is an interactive map to explore with and you can click markers on it to see more information about restaurants and curries. Since quarantine, I've made it a goal to support local businesses and try all the curries in the area. However, since moving to Pittsburgh, I've found it increasingly hard to keep track of all the curries and restaurants I've tried. Thus, this website is for audiences who want to try something new, support local restaurants, and try all the curries they can!

Website Interactions

On the "Home" page…

- Add new curry to index
    - Click on the "+ Add New Curry" button
    - Fill out the form
        - Only the restaurant name, restaurant address, curry name, and rating are required; however, tasting notes and photo are encouraged
    - Press Save when done
- Delete curry from the index
    - Find curry in the index to delete and click the "Delete" button
- Preferably once curries are already in the index, click the "Map" navigation link in the upper right-hand corner to go to the Map page

On the "Map" page...

- On the map, you should see your curries as markers on the map where the restaurants are located

    - If not refresh the page (I have reason to believe this is a backend issue I couldn't figure out how to solve)
- See curries by clicking markers
    - Click on the different markers on the map to see details on the curry/restaurant
- Drag on the map to explore Pittsburgh/world and see your other markers if not in Pittsburgh
- Zoom in/out on areas of the map to see areas up close/far away
- Add new curry to index
    - Click on the "+ Add New Curry"
    - Fill out the form
        - Only the restaurant name, restaurant address, curry name, and rating are required; however, tasting notes and photo are encouraged
    - Press Save when done
- Click on the "Curry Index" link in the upper right-hand corner to go back to the home index page

Tools Used

A. React
    I. Chose react because we were learning it in Section E lab. Plus, I know that React is a highly-coveted framework for UX Developers to know so I've always wanted to learn it.
    II. I used React as the basis for coding for my entire site
    III. It adds more sophistication to my website. As opposed to when just using Vanilla Javascript, React allowed me to create components I could reuse so I wouldn't have to retype code on each page (e.g. the Add Curry Modal)

B. Animation (CSS)
    I. I chose to use basic CSS animations on my website, as I wanted some sort of fun and engaging feedback when users added a curry to their index
    II. I created a CSS animation that had bowls of curry that I drew falling from the "sky" (i.e. top of the webpage) when a curry was added (i.e. "Save" button pressed on Add Curry Modal)
    III. [I hope] the animation adds some fun and entertainment to my website. It is based off of the Zappos animation with falling squirrels when users add an item to their cart

C. Bootstrap (both CSS class-based and React bootstrap module)

I. I chose to use Bootstrap on my site to make it responsive. I've used it before when developing websites with Vanilla JS/HTML/CSS and I find it very useful.
II. I used it throughout my code to make my site responsive. I used it in div classes to make columns and rows.
III. It adds responsivity to my website so it works on a variety of devices

D. Google Maps API
I. I used the Google Maps API with markers (i.e. pins on map) and geocoding to get the addresses users input for curry restaurants on the map on the map page.
II. I used the API to create a map of the curry restaurants input by a user. Markers indicate where each restaurant is in Pittsburgh.
III. This adds a fun feature to my site for users to see where the curries they have tried are in real-time.

Iterations Since HW7

I only made cosmetic changes to my website since creating the HW7 mockup. On the map, I took away the info-window on pop up as I already had the information below the map. Additionally, I moved the "+ add new curry" button under the header text on the map page like it is on the home page for more consistency.

Challenges

I had never used React before, so it was quite challenging to figure out how to use that coming from Vanilla JS. I also had trouble with the Google Maps API. On the Maps API, something is causing it to not load all of my markers each refresh so you have to reload several times and I couldn't figure out the backend code to fix it.