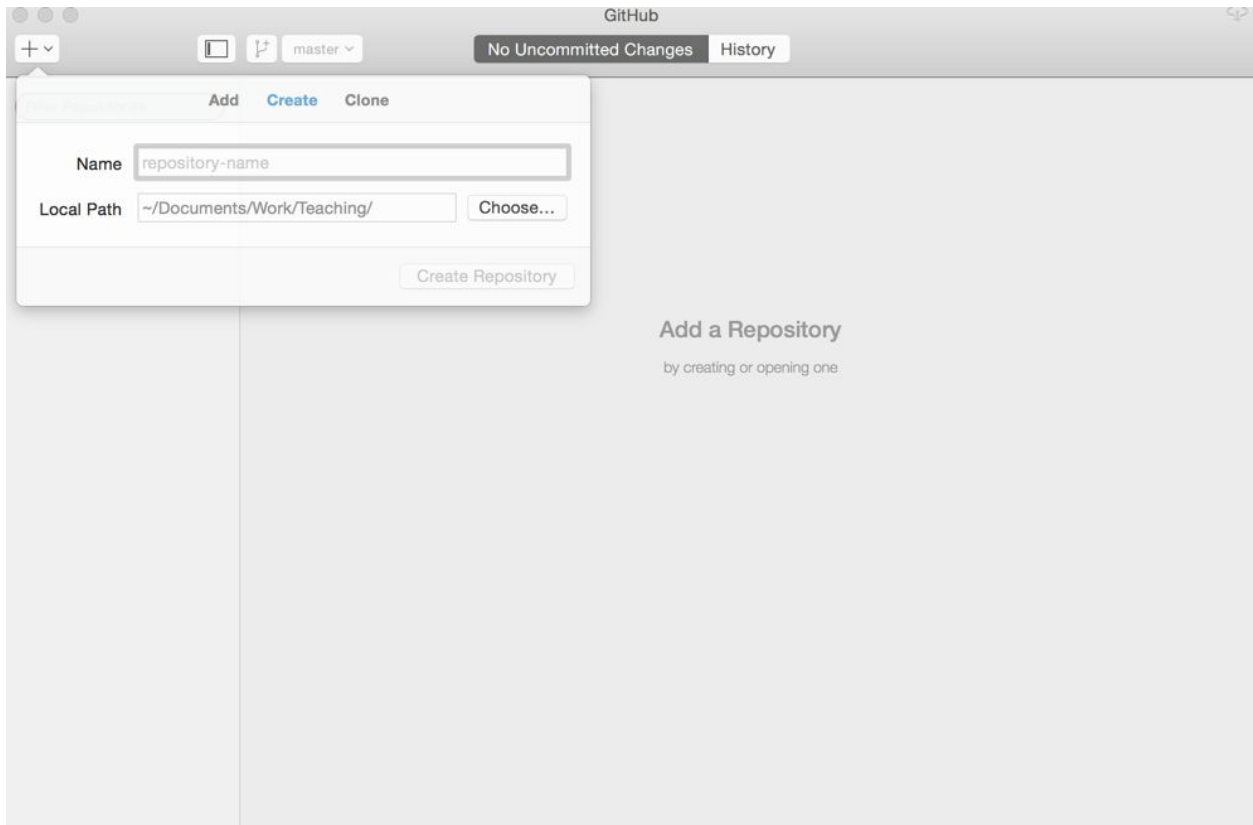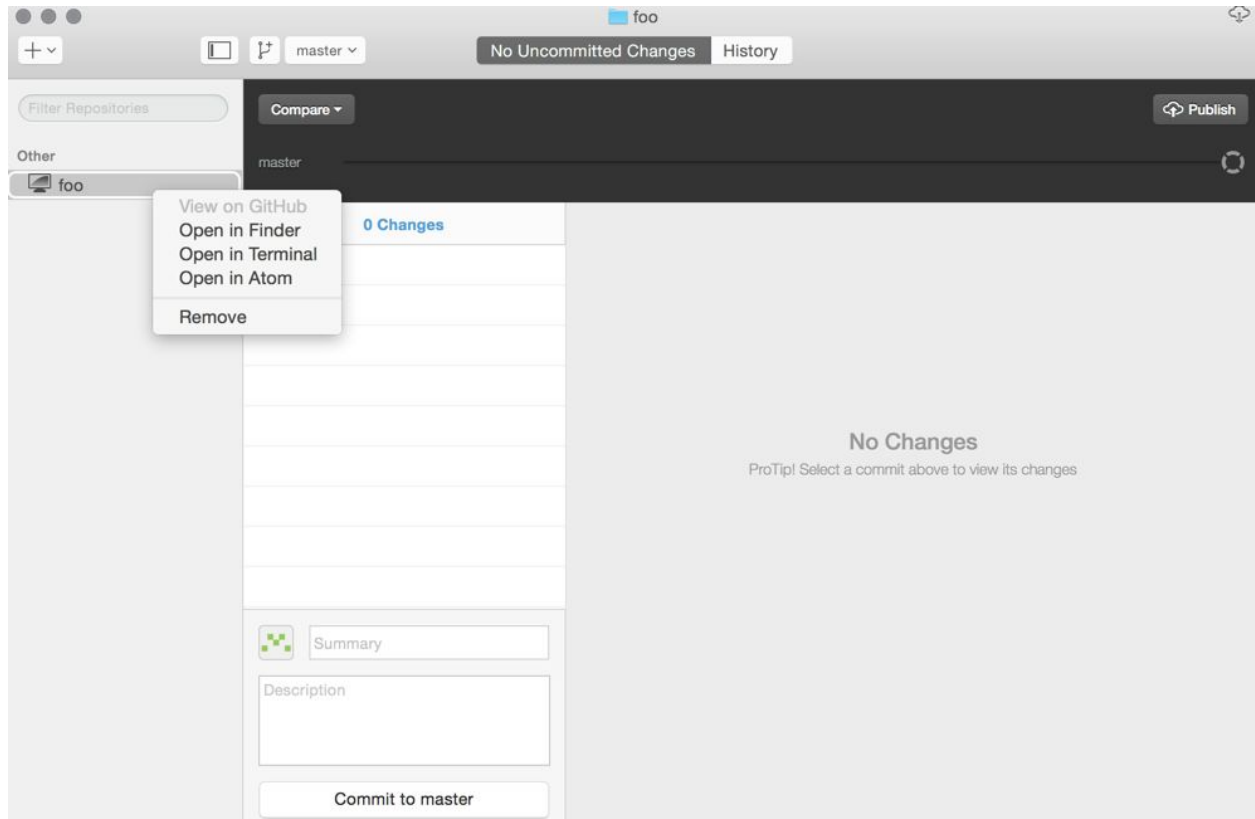# Hosting files on GitHub Pages

1. Create a new project (your repo name needs to be dash-delimited w/ no spaces)
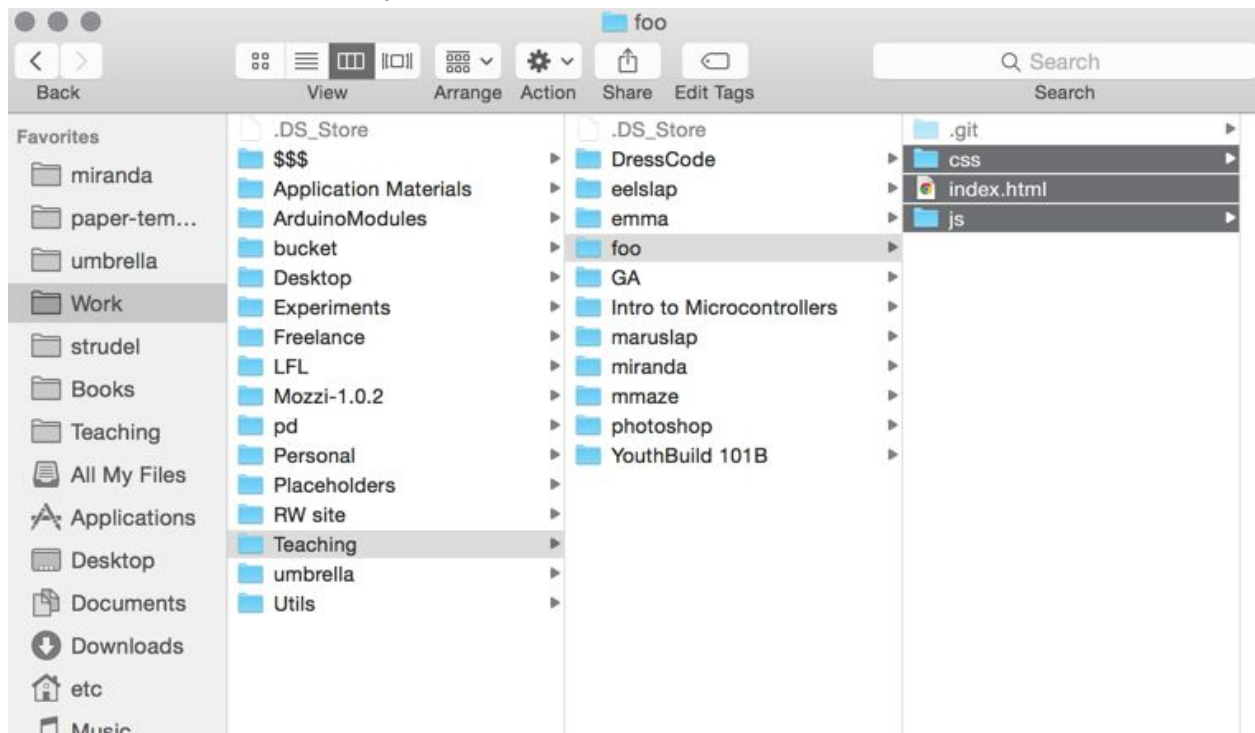

When you press "Create Repository" this will add a directory with the repository name within the path you specified. So if I create a project called "foo", there will be a new directory in my ~/Documents/Work/Teaching directory called "foo".

2. Navigate to the project folder in Finder (or Explorer in Windows).
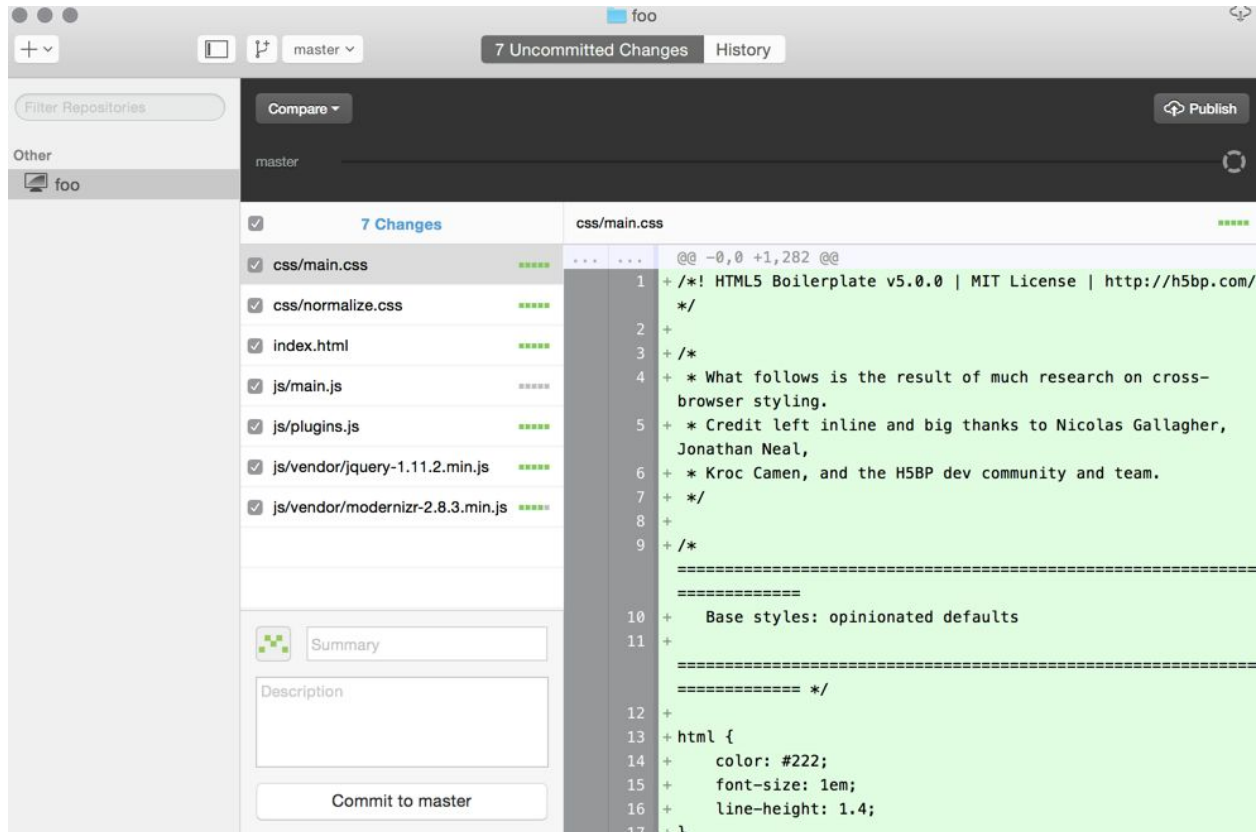
3. Add your HTML and CSS files inside of your project folder. (You can also add image files or whatever else you want here.)
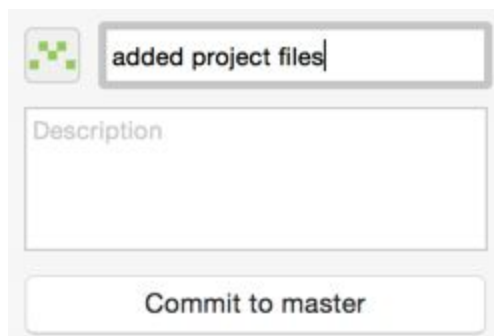
(don't worry if you don't see the .git folder -- I hacked my Finder to show dot-files which are usually hidden)

4. Once you've added files to your project folder, go back to your GitHub client and you should see that it's updated to show the files you added

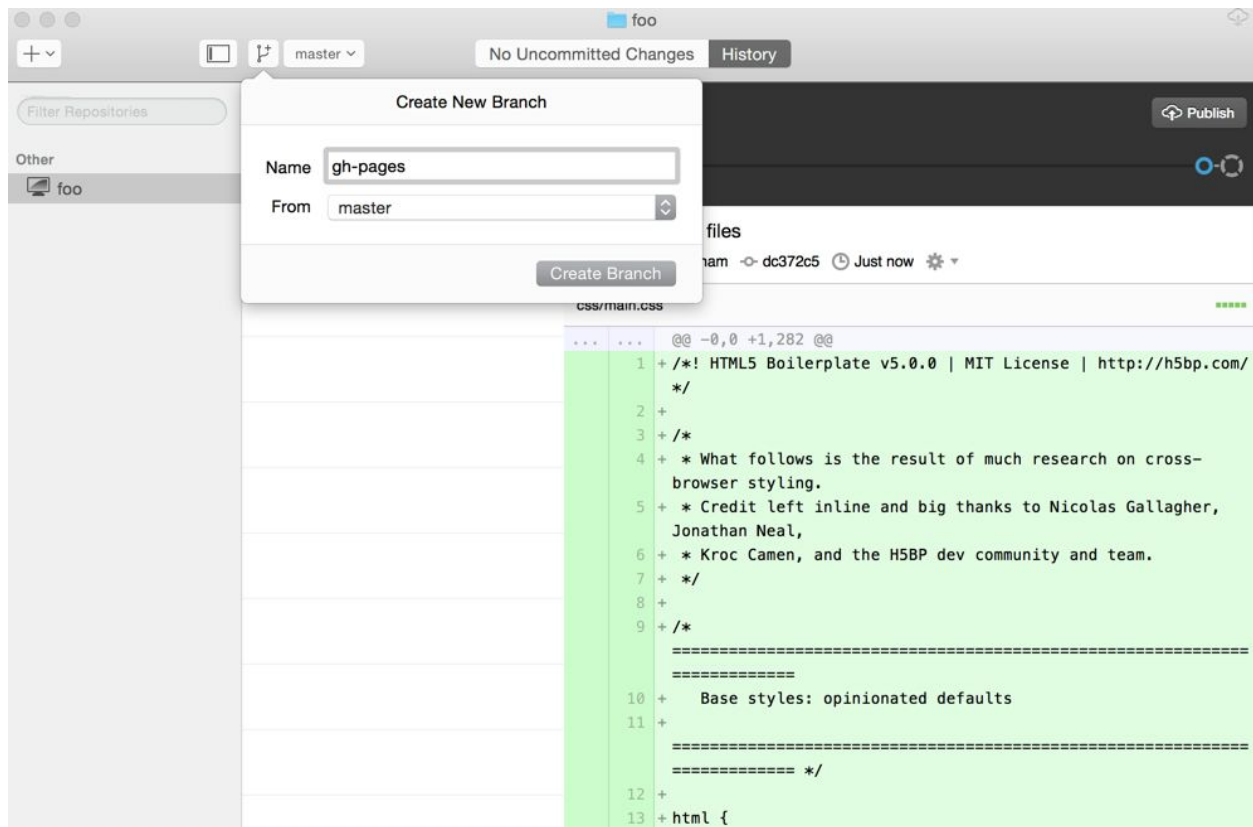5. Enter a brief summary in the "Summary" field and the press "Commit to master"

6. Press the icon to the left of dropdown that says "master" -- this one:

Branches are ways to organize different versions of the codebase. We are creating a special branch that GitHub will use for publishing our files.

Create a new branch named "**gh-pages**" (it MUST be named exactly this way or it won't publish to GitHub)

7. Click "Publish" in the upper right hand corner to sync these changes with your GitHub account: (make sure you are on the gh-pages branch). When it prompts you, you can name it whatever you want (i usually keep my repo names the same).

8. Once you've published the files, they should be visible on GitHub but it sometimes takes a few minutes for the file sync to percolate on GitHub.

   The url that you want to visit is:

   USERNAME.github.io/REPOSITORY_NAME

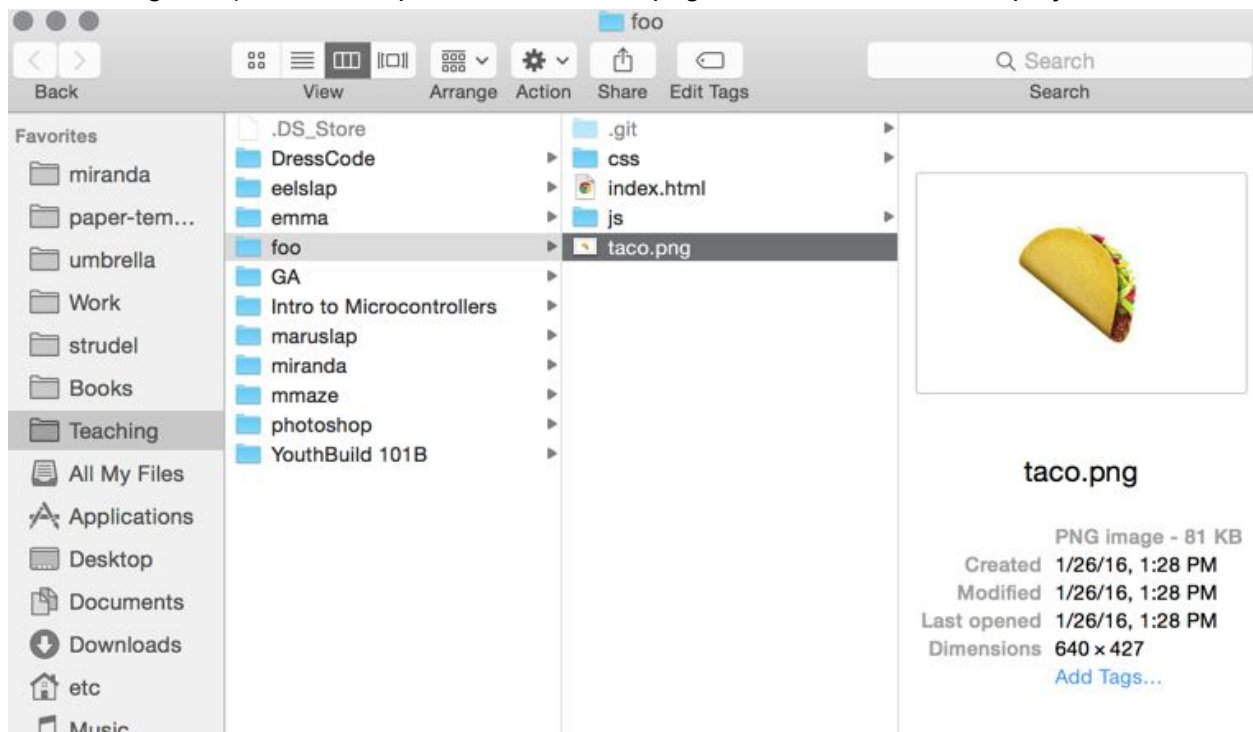so in my case, since I was logged into the account "emmacunningham" and my repository name is "foo", I would visit:

usually you'll see your site instantly, but if you see a page saying there's nothing to be found there, that usually means you just need to wait a few minutes for it to work
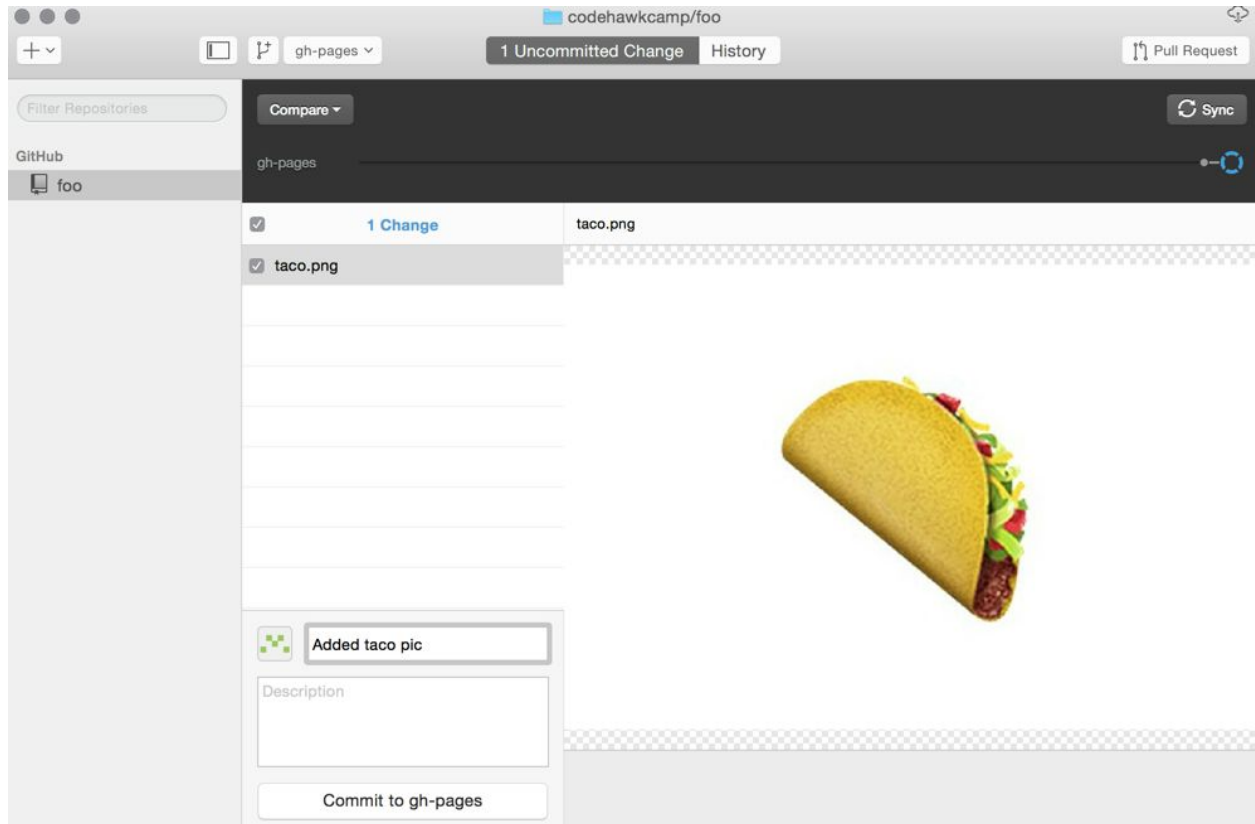
In my case, because I added an index.html in the main root of the project, the project URL will just render the HTML document defined in `index.html`. But I can also visit other files within the project by referencing their file names.

First, let's add a photo to the project.

9. You can follow these steps whenever you've made changes to the project and want to publish those changes. I'm just going to add a picture (but you can edit text files, delete things, etc). I added a picture called "taco.png" to the main root of the project.

Then, go back to the GitHub client. My added file is listed in the Change log. Add a summary of the change and then commit to gh-pages

After you commit, press "Sync" ( ) in the upper right hand corner to sync the changes with the GitHub account.

10. To visit this new file, I'll go to emmacunningham.github.io/foo/taco.png -- note that if I had put the taco.png file within a directory called "img", then I would go to emmacunningham.github.io/foo/img/taco.png. You can nest files within directories upon directories and navigate to them so long as you reference them correctly; remember, your project root on GitHub is USERNAME.github.io/REPOSITORY_NAME.

You can host anything this way -- PDFs, mp3s, etc. And it's FREE!