

Country Creations

Introduction: Once you have designed the basic layout for a Web site, usually with a sample page, you should look at the parts of your pages that will remain the same and what parts will change with each new page. Creating a dynamic web template with editable area(s) will help create a consistent look and feel across an entire Web site. Non-editable regions on pages made from the template will remain locked while the editable regions will hold the page-specific content. Refer to the Layout in Dreamweaver slideshow for help with this practice.

This is the index.html file that we will use in this practice:



Step 1. Getting Started

Download the CountryCreations.zip file to your desktop. Extract the Country Creations folder and store it on your desktop. In Dreamweaver, use **Site > New Site** and name the site **Dynamic Web Template**. Then browse to choose the Country Creations folder; choose **Select Folder** and then click **Save**. The Folder List contains a completed index.html page and a mystyles.css page. There is also an Images folder.

Step 2. What is a Dynamic Web Template?

Templates allow the creation of many pages from a single blueprint or template. In Dreamweaver, the template mechanism is known as a **Dynamic Web Template**. The dynamic web template will have two different types of regions in it, those that are editable and those that are not. By using templates to create pages, designers of the site can manage a consistent look and feel across the entire Web site. If the dynamic web template is changed within the Dreamweaver environment, all the pages created from it can also change. This use of templates can greatly increase productivity and correctness when managing a large Web site.

Step 3. Creating a Dynamic Web Template (*.dwt)

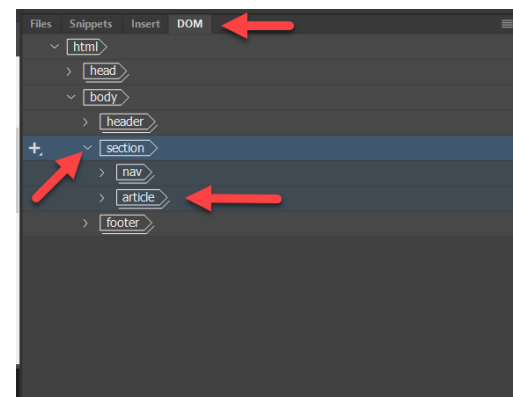
It is best to begin making a template by creating a sample page as we have done with the index.html page. We have also linked an external CSS style sheet to this sample page that could also be modified in the future. This allows for a flexible look and feel even after a template has been made.

To create a Dynamic Web Template, we will open our index.html page and then save it as a Dynamic Web Template. Using **File > Save as Template...**, name your template **CountryCreations.dwt**.

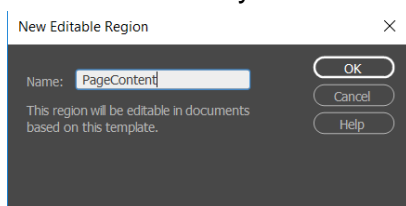
Step 4. Defining Editable Regions in the Dynamic Web Template (*.dwt)

For this Dreamweaver Practice site, we want all of the pages to be the same except for page-specific content in the <article> box. The changeable area of a template is known as the **Editable Region**. The part outside any editable area will be locked or non-editable. So the <article> will need to be made into an Editable Region.

We need to make a decision. Do we want the <article> to be editable or just stuff inside the <article>? If we want to include the <article> in the editable area, activate the Document Object Model (DOM) panel. If you need to activate this panel, choose Window > DOM. In the DOM panel, expand the section box and click on article. This should highlight the entire <article> box.



Use the **Insert > Template > Editable Region** menu options to open up the Editable Regions dialog. Add a new Region Name of **PageContent** and click OK. This will create an Editable Region around your <article></article> elements. which you can see in Code View.



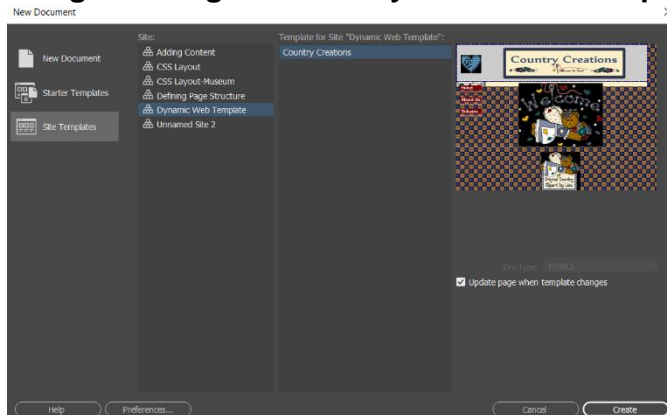
You will already have one editable region called **doctitle** in the <head> of your page surrounding the <title> tag. This will allow you to give new pages a meaningful title.

When you make new pages from the template, this <article> box will be editable, but the rest of the page will be locked down. If Dreamweaver created any other editable regions, please delete them.

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html>
3
4 <head>
5 <meta charset="UTF-8">
6 <!-- TemplateBeginEditable name="doctitle" -->
7 <title>Sample Page</title>
8 <!-- TemplateEndEditable -->
9 <link href="../../mystyles.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css">
10 <!-- TemplateBeginEditable name="head" -->
11 <!-- TemplateEndEditable -->
12 </head>
```

Delete Lines 10 & 11

Step 5. Making New Pages from a Dynamic Web Template



To create a new page from a Dynamic Web Template, use the **File > New** menu option and choose **“Dynamic Web Template”**. Click on the **CountryCreations.dwt** file and the File Name will be set to attach this template. Then click **Create**. A new untitled page will be created.

Save this new page as **index.html**. This will overwrite our original index

page with an editable area that contains the content we wanted in our index page. The rest of the index.html page is now locked down and is non-editable. Because the <title> tag is in an editable region, we can change the title of this page to be: Country Creations - Home Page.

To create a new **AboutUs.html** page from the template, use File > New and choose “Create from a Dynamic Web Template”. Select the CountryCreations.dwt file and Create. Save this page as: **AboutUs.html** as this is the page linked in the navigation bar. We want to delete the images in the editable region(<article>). Add an <h2> About Us – Country Creations. Add a paragraph that explains the content for the About Us page will be coming soon... Add the sewbearlisa.gif to the page and add the hyperlink to: <http://www.countryclipart.com>. Notice the content of this editable area is centered because of the text-alignment of the <article>.

To create a new **Tributes.html** page from the template, use File > New and choose “Create from a Dynamic Web Template”. Select the CountryCreations.dwt file and Create. Save the page as: **Tributes.html** as this is the page linked in the navigation bar. Change the <title> to be Tributes – Country Creations. We want to delete the images in the editable region (<article>). Add an <h2> Tributes – Country Creations. Add a paragraph that explains the content for the Tributes page will be coming soon... Add the sewbearlisa.gif to the page and add the hyperlink to: <http://www.countryclipart.com>.

Step 6. Close all html files and open your CountryCreation.dwt file. Your navigation links need to be edit from placeholders (#) to actual page links. Edit your links for the index.html, AboutUs.html, and Tributes.html pages. When you save, your html pages should be updated with the appropriate links. If the pages do not update automatically when saved, choose **Tools > Templates > Update Pages**. Be sure to have the template open when performing the update.

You should now be able navigate among the page of the site. Preview in a browser and test your link so make sure they work. Validate and upload the entire site to the Practices folder on GitHub.

Step 7. Getting Ready for Project 8

This is the same process you will use to create a dynamic web template needed in Project8 Web site from your Home.html page made for Project7. You will save the Home.html page as a Dynamic Web Template .dwt file. Add the needed editable region and then save the template file. New Web site pages will then be created from your dynamic web template.

Conclusion: A versatile and dynamic Web site can be created using a combination of box elements, an external CSS style sheet, and a Dynamic Web Template. As changes are made to the style sheet or the template file in Dreamweaver, all attached pages will be changed. This allows a Web Site to be modified over time in a more efficient and controlled manner.