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Assignment 8 Writeup

Part One

V. Purpose
I am choosing to create an informational website about koalas, their endangered status, and how we can help prevent and help them from going extinct. The website will also be a celebration of life of koalas - highlighting fun facts, cute pictures, behaviors - in the beginning to set the user to empathize with koalas, and then at the end of the website will be more serious facts about their endangered status as well as resources to help koalas live.

VI. What Information do you want to convey
I want to include an introduction of my interest in koalas, basic scientific information (eating habits, life span, behavior, endangered status), quick facts, as well as brief information about the causes of threats to extinction (disease, wildfires, urbanization, climate change, and habitat loss).

Research Sources:

1. https://www.newscientist.com/article/2203655-no-koalas-are-not-functionally-extinct-but-they-are-in-trouble/
2. https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/k/koala/
3. https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/nature/koala-facts.html
4. https://www.insider.com/koala-deaths-port-macquarie-wildfire-australia-nature-reserve-2019-10

VII. How is it Engaging And Interesting
It is engaging by having many big, beautiful, high quality images, and making my writing brief but poignant. Because the website has some scientific facts about koalas, I balanced that information with some pictures and icons to keep the information fun and interesting.

The website uses many animations such as the fade-in on the text, the animated koala logo, and the parallax to make it fun. There is a nature theme throughout the website to tie into my environmentalism message. The website also uses a glass effect on the nav bar to create visual interest.

VIII. The target audience
Is anyone who likes animals; not necessarily someone who is looking for deep scientific knowledge.

Part Two

III. Interaction Type

- Scroll through a standard "infinite scroll" web page
- Click on the menu items in the navigation bar to jump to different anchors on the webpage
- Click on the buttons to go to other webpages (savethekoala.com) to learn about donating or status

IV. Interesting Use Case

- Scroll through the webpage and see animated text fade in
- Scroll through the website and see parallax effect on image sections
- Click on menu items and see the page jump to different sections of the webpage
- Scroll down and see the navbar activate the "glass effect", making the back of the bar more opaque than transparent
- Click on the animated koala logo to jump to the "homepage"

Part Three

V. Name of tool

- wow.min.js
- materialize.min.js

VI. Why I Used it

- *For wow.js*, I used the library to reveal animations when scrolling because it makes the website more visual/dynamic and keeps readers wanting to read more. The library makes it easier to implement animations, as I would not need to spend a lot of time coding the javascript, and I could experiment with different animation types easily on my website
- *For materialize.js*, I used the library to give a parallax effect on background images when scrolling because it makes the website more cinematic and "natural" as the objects in front should move slower than the ones in the back. It also saved time to code the complex animation by using this library

VII. How I used it

- For wow.js, I linked Animate.css, and activated wow.js by linking the code on their website. To make elements revealable I added the various custom animation styles from the CSS class ".wow" to html elements
- For materialize.js, I downloaded the minified and unminified CSS and JavaScript files. I then linked the javascript files at the end of the body in the HTML.

VIII. What it adds to the website

- Using *wow.js* animations while scrolling makes the website more dynamic by having text fading in and out. It adds to the overall playful feeling of the koalas and keeps viewer interested in the text information
- Using *materialize.js*'s parallax effect makes the website cinematic and more "natural" as you see objects move slower in the back and faster in the front. It adds to the playfulness of the koala theme, and gives it a 3D space, where we can try to picture the koalas in the forest.

Part Four

Describe how you iterated on your HW7 mockups, if at all, including any changes you made to your original design while you were implementing your website

From the HW 7 mockups, I added an animated hand-drawn logo for the website and added another icon for "sleep" in the "about" page to make the page have 4 icons to make it more symmetric. I also changed the background of the solid colored pages have leaves in the back because it would make the parallax effect look more cinematic as you could see clearly that the background moves faster than the foreground. I changed the font for icons to be avenir to make the smaller text more readable.

Part Five

What challenges did you experience in implementing your website?

Making the website responsive was a bit challenging because I had to recalculate the absolute positioning of the many leaves that are scattered in my website. Also, there were small adjustments in the images that I had to do in mobile view to make the text more readable. I also had to look into google to see how the glass effect worked on the nav bar, which took more time to implement than expected. I also experienced a lot of testing(of images, positions, etc) on the website so it would look like the mock. However, I also had to adjust the website mock alot along the way so to make it better for me to code.