

Lesson 15

Using Legacy Tools: Frames and Tables

Although frames have become less popular for building web pages, many sites still use them. In this lesson, your students will get a basic understanding of how frames work.

Creating framesets

Frames provide a way to divide a browser window into multiple regions, each capable of displaying a different HTML document. Be aware that frames are increasingly rare, and the Legacy chapter is designed to help people work with older frame-based sites.

- 1 First, they create a new blank HTML web page and save it in their site's root folder with the name **frametemp.html**.
- 2 They can choose Modify > Frameset, and select Split Frame Left.
- 3 Have them place their cursor in the left-hand frame and select the frame by Alt+clicking (Windows) or Option+Shift+clicking (Mac OS). Another window that comes in handy for selecting frames is the Frames window, which can be opened under the Window menu.
- 4 In the Properties panel, name the frame **Menu**.
- 5 They should place your cursor in the right-hand frame and select the frame by Alt+clicking (Windows) or Option+Shift+clicking (Mac OS).
- 6 In the Properties panel, name the frame **Content**.
- 7 Save the file.

Customizing the frameset

Using the Property Inspector, they can customize their frameset layout by adding borders of a specific color between their frames.

- 1 If necessary, have them click on the gray border separating their frames in order to reselect the entire frameset. The Property Inspector at the bottom of their screen will now display frameset properties, including the number of rows and columns in your current frameset.
- 2 From the Borders drop-down menu, choose Yes to define a border between your frames.
- 3 In the Border Color field, use the Color Picker to select a color for the border. Press Enter (Windows) or Return (Mac OS).
- 4 Click inside one frame of the frameset to place an insertion cursor, then choose Modify > Page Properties. The Page Properties dialog box appears.

- 5 In the Background field, have them select a color for the background. Press OK to close the Page Properties dialog box and see the results. Repeat these steps to change the background color of the other frame. Save the file.

Adding links to external web pages

- 1 In the left-hand frame, type this list, pressing Return at the end of each item:

The Body Holiday

La Source

SpaVacations

- 2 Format this text as an unordered list by selecting the text, then clicking on the Unordered List icon on the Property Inspector.
- 3 Students should highlight the first item on the list, The Body Holiday. In the Property Inspector, type the following URL into the Link field:

<http://www.thebodyholiday.com>

Pull down the Target menu and select Content, so the linked page will open in the right-hand frame. Create hyperlinks for the other two items on the list, using these URLs:

<http://www.theamazingholiday.com>

<http://www.spavacations.com>

- 4 Save the page and have them preview it in web browser. They need to test the links to see if they work properly. If not, go back and check to be sure you entered the URLs correctly in the Link field on the Property Inspector.

Questions

- 1 What are frames?
BONUS: What are framesets?
- 2 What is the most common use for frames?
- 3 What are the rules for naming frames?
- 4 True or False: You can't preview a frameset in a browser until you have saved the frameset and all of the content that appears in the frames.
- 5 How do you set the background color of a frame?

Answers

- 1** Frames provide a way to divide a browser window into multiple regions, each capable of displaying a different HTML document. A frameset is an HTML file that defines the layout and properties of a set of frames, including the number of frames, their size and placement, and the content that appears in each frame.
- 2** Frames are most commonly used for navigation, with one frame displaying a document containing navigation controls, and other frames showing pages with content.
- 3** Frame names must be one word in length, and cannot contain special characters. Underscores are permitted. Frame names are case-sensitive.
- 4** True. When saving framesets, you'll have at least 3 different files that will be saved. There's the frameset, which is the HTML container that houses the frames, and then there are the individual HTML files that are contained in each frame.
- 5** The background color of a frame is not a property that you can set in the Property Inspector. To change frame background colors, you'll need to use the Page Properties dialog box.