

Choose How the Whole Site Looks

60 minutes

Design a Website

WHAT THIS LESSON DOES

Decide how your site looks, and learn the difference that matters: a choice on the page block changes everything on that page at once, while a choice on any other block changes only itself.

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO

- Understand that the page block sets the look of everything on that page.
- Understand that any other block's boxes change only that block.
- Give every page of a site the same look.
- Judge whether a colour choice is still readable.

BEFORE THE LESSON

- Open the web page interactive on the board so you can model clicking the page block versus a single heading or banner.
- Devices ready, one per pupil, with each pupil logged in to their existing two-page site.
- Be ready to point out the big blue page block: pupils click a heading by mistake the first time.

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HOW THE LESSON RUNS

5 min	introduction	Start: What We're Building
4 min	content	Whole Site, or Just This Bit
7 min	activity	Change the Whole Page Background
6 min	activity	Change the Writing Colour and the Font
6 min	activity	Now Change Just One Block
7 min	activity	Give the Other Page the Same Look
6 min	activity	Make One Thing Stand Out
7 min	activity	Your Turn: Finish Your Look
5 min	content	Make Sense
4 min	content	Reflect
3 min	summary	What You Covered

TEACHING MOVES

1. Start: What We're Building. State the whole lesson in one line: a page block choice changes everything, a block choice changes one thing. Show the example look as one option, not the answer.
2. Whole Site, or Just This Bit. Say the two kinds of choice plainly and stop there. Do not over-explain: pupils learn it by doing the next three steps.
3. Change the Whole Page Background. Model once. Point out the big blue page block that everything sits inside, so pupils do not click a heading. Let them try a gradient, then ask if they can still read their sentences.
4. Change the Writing Colour and the Font. Make readability the point, not taste. If a pupil cannot read their own page they have made a design mistake and can see it themselves. Change one of the two colours until it reads easily.
5. Now Change Just One Block. This is the key beat. Have the class say aloud what changed this time compared with the background step: only the banner, nothing else. That is the whole distinction.
6. Give the Other Page the Same Look. Let pupils discover that page block choices are per page by comparing both pages, rather than telling them. This is what makes the word site mean something.
7. Make One Thing Stand Out. Ask which element they made stand out and why. The banner or top heading is the right instinct.
8. Your Turn: Finish Your Look. Independent work. Look for readable writing, both pages matching, and a pupil who can name which choice was whole-page and which was one-block.
9. Make Sense. Ask one pupil which box recolours a whole site and another which box recolours a single banner. Two right answers confirm the distinction landed.
10. Reflect. Take these as spoken discussion only. Draw out the middle question: liking a colour and being able to read it are different things.
11. What You Covered. Read the bullets aloud and remind pupils their pages save by themselves.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

- Pupils click a heading or banner expecting the whole page to recolour, then think the tool is broken when only one block changes. Show them the big blue page block everything sits inside. If only one block changed, they clicked the wrong block. Have them click the page block itself.
- Pupils choose a background and writing colour they like but cannot read, for example dark text on a dark or gradient background. Ask them to read a sentence off their own page aloud. If they struggle, tell them to change one of the two colours until it reads easily.
- Pupils set a look on one page and assume the second page changed too, because a page block choice looks like a whole-site choice. Have them open both pages from the menu and compare. Point out each page has its own page block, so the look must be set on both.

DIFFERENTIATION

- Emerging: Sit with them for the first background change so they find the blue page block, then let them repeat the same steps for text colour and font on their own.
- Developing: Have them say out loud, before each click, whether the change will affect the whole page or just one block.