

Project: Para-Site

Due 3/28

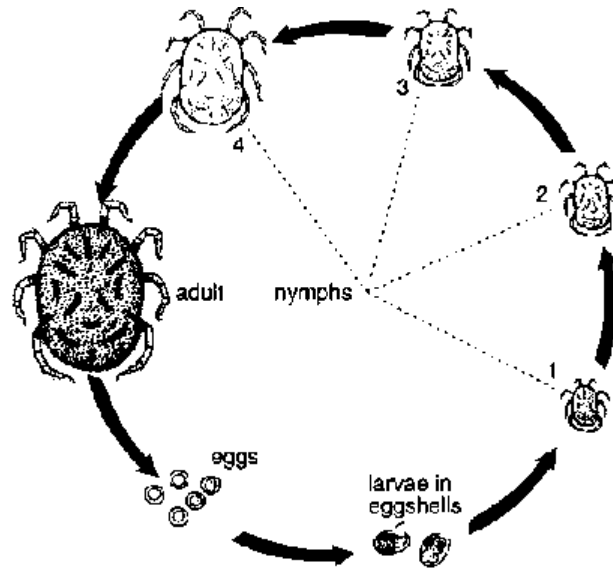


Diagram of a tick's life cycle, an ectoparasite (a.k.a. external parasite)

Parasite. noun. par·a·site 'par-ə-,sīt. : an organism living in, with, or on another organism in order to obtain nutrients, grow, or multiply often in a state that directly or indirectly harms the host.

— Merriam Webster Dictionary

In this project, you'll be making a browser extension, which is a small piece of software that customizes the web browser or modifies the user interface. It does not exist without the presence of another site to cling to, hence, a para-site.

A few facts about extensions

- They are free
- They work on all platforms (Windows, Mac, Unix...)
- One does not have to download or install software to use extensions

Extensions modify an existing site locally, by subtracting elements, adding new elements, replacing elements, or by altering existing elements. This is done through a combination of CSS and JavaScript.

Choose one of the verbs, Subtract, Add, Replace, Alter, or a combination, and create a browser extension based on that verb.

REQUIREMENTS

- Functional browser extension
- Online homepage for your extension (see www.abstractbrowsing.net for general reference)

The homepage should contain the following:

- a. Extension title
- b. 1 sentence description of what it does/is
- c. Link to add the extension to your browser
- d. Documentation of your extension in use

- e. Page with image research (textual explanation optional)

REFERENCES

[PDF presentation](#)

SCHEDULE

Week 1

Part 1: Due Tu 2/26

- Delve into your chosen verb/s. Go outside (out into the world), take photographs of the things you see in your daily life that relate in any way to your verb. Create a presentation documenting your findings. This should be thorough. It should include text and images and allow you to be prepared to talk about these examples of your verb. You can prepare the presentation as scans, a PDF, a PowerPoint, a website. Link to it from your class homepage. Pay attention to form and typography.

Part 2: Due Th 2/28

- Based on your research findings, bring in 3 totally different extension ideas.
- For each idea, bring:
 - A few possible websites that the extension idea would apply well on
 - How the idea would be applied to that website

Week 2

Part 3: Due Tu 3/5

- Choose 1-2 ideas and sketch out how they might work using screenshots of websites. Choose sites that are ideal for your extension and ones that are less ideal.
- Start thinking of a possible name for your extension
- If you have time, begin designing/coding your image research page (this will contain the images you took for part 1 of the project.)

Part 4: Due Th 3/7

- Choose 1 idea from Tuesdays class and move forward with that. More details to come.
- Begin to define the rules of your extension, what does it affect and how. Be as detailed and precise as possible.
- Come up with a name (even if it's temporary)

Week 3

Part 4: Due Tu 3/12

- Coded draft of your extension

Part 5: Due Th 3/14

- Name your extension
- Second coded draft of extension
- Coded design of the image research page, this may or may not have a textual description (description of your chosen verb)

Spring Break

Part 6: Due Th 3/21

- Continue working on your extension

- Coded sketch of extension homepage (how will you show documentation of your extension in use, what sites will you show it used on, what kind of typography might there be?)
 - Include homepage with title, documentation of extension in use, and the image research page

Final due Thursday 3/28