



Div tags and Selectors

What is a div tag

This is another xhtml tag like the “p” tag but it is not often known because it does not display by the browsers unless you give it properties.

It is a “container” tag usually used to set divisions on the page.

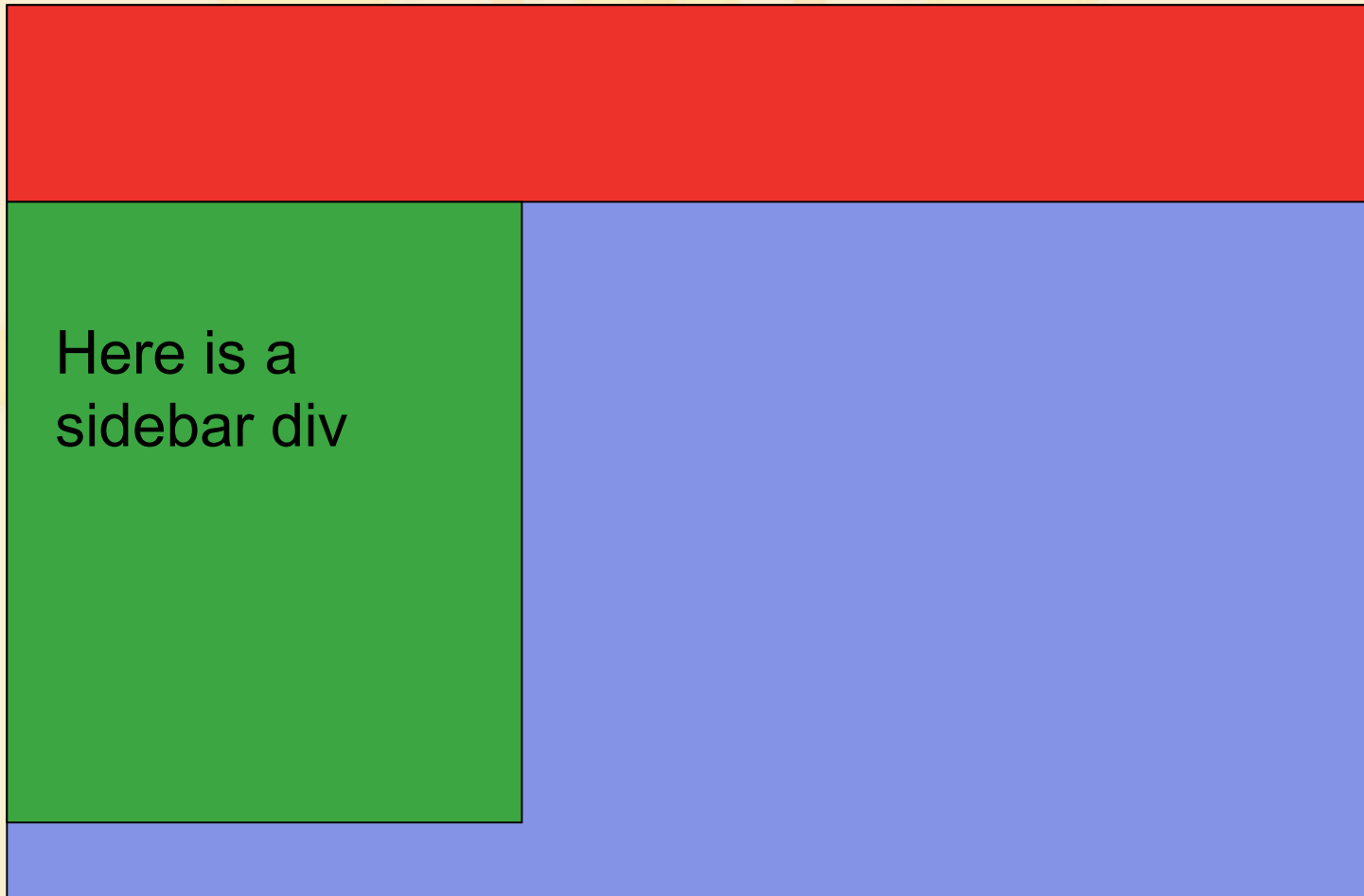
Div for Divisions

This could be a wrapper div to hold all page content

Div for Divisions

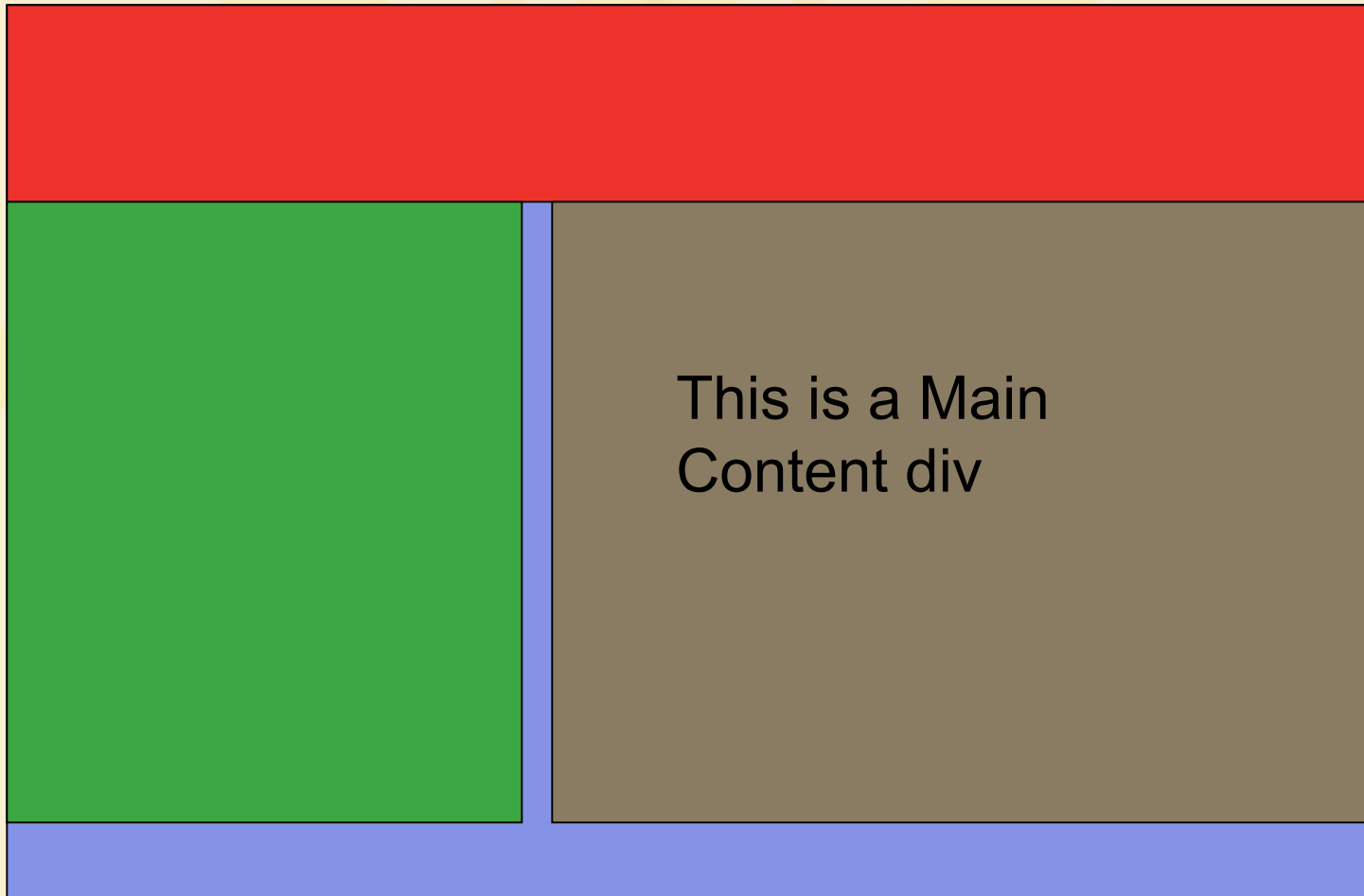
Here is the header area div

Div for Divisions



Here is a
sidebar div

Div for Divisions



Div for Divisions



This would be the footer area div

Setting the Structure of our Page

So we design a comp to show the client in a program like Photoshop, Illustrator or Fireworks.

Then we typically slice up parts of the comp and save in the web folder.

Next we need to go into Dreamweaver and start setting up the structure of the page with div tags that hold our text and images.

Next we use CSS to format the presentation or “look of the page.

Using Divs for Page Layout

If we want these divs in different places on the page and looking different, we have to have a way to differentiate them.

This div versus that div...

So it would be nice to have our own named tags.

Making our own xhtml tags

Classes and ID's

Xhtml contains tags ex. p, body, ul, div.

We have the option to use classes and ID's to expand our tags.

For example there is no tag called sidebar so we can make a tag using an ID or class

Classes and ID's

They are both similar in that they give us more info about an xhtml tag but here is the difference.

ID's are used for unique areas of content and they can only be used 1x on a page. **Usually used for divs to set up the structure of the page ex. header, content, footer, etc.**

Classes can be repeated many times on a page. Usually used for an attribute that can be applied to **many tags**. Ex. the class "green" could make a word, a heading or a whole paragraph green.

Classes and ID's in the xhtml

Here we are talking about what this looks like in the **web page in the xhtml** not in the CSS style sheet.

ID's and classes are put inside of the <> tag holders and are named like this....

```
<div id="sidebar">
```

```
<p class="green"> or
```

```
<span class="important">
```

Classes and ID's in the CSS

Remember we have two different things we are talking about ...the web page with the xhtml and usually a separate style sheet with the CSS.

ID's and classes have different symbols to designate them in the CSS

#sidebar (divs use the # sign)

.green (classes use the . sign)

Xhtml versus the CSS

Then we can use the CSS to talk to this “new tag” we created.

It would look like this in the xhtml...

```
<div id="sidebar">
```

It would look like this in the CSS...

```
#sidebar {  
    margin: 20px;  
    padding: 15px;
```

Difference

This is the xhtml

```
<div id="sidebar">
```

```
<p class="green">
```

This is the CSS

```
#sidebar (divs use the # sign)
```

```
.green (classes use the . sign)
```

Remember Xhtml tags

are used to structure the page NOT to format the look of it.

- Tells the browser messages such as :
h1 = very important headline here
- h2 = hey browser, this is a subhead. Not as important as h1 but fairly important
- p = this is some text in a block called a paragraph and has space above and below it

CSS is a style sheet

Used to “fix” the look of the page

- Tells the browser messages such as :
h1 = make it Arial, 24 pt. and blue.
- body = make the background blue and also put a non-repeating image in this location.
- p = make all p tags verdana 12 point with 18 point line height.

Types of Cascading Style Sheets

- Embedded (in the same page as the xhtml) or
- External (a separate page with the .css ending that must be in the web folder with your xhtml sheet)
- This is the best method of style sheets***