

HTML Digital Product

Installation & Sharing Guide

For teachers using browser-based HTML activities from Teachers Pay Teachers

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Welcome

Thank you for your purchase. You have downloaded a browser-based HTML activity. It runs entirely inside a single .html file that opens in a web browser such as Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge. There is no app to install, no student login, and no app store required. When you or your students open the file, the activity loads just like visiting a website.

This guide explains how the file works, why each student needs their own copy, and the best ways to distribute the activity in your classroom.

Why Does the File Look Like a Link?

If you are new to HTML digital products, the file may look unusual at first. That is completely normal.

- An HTML file is a web page saved as a single file on your computer or in Google Drive.
- When you double-click the file, or right-click and choose Open with Google Chrome (or Edge), your browser opens it the same way it would open a website.
- The icon may look like a browser symbol or a link. That does not mean the download is broken. It means the file is a web page, not a Word document or PDF.
- You do not need to unzip anything or run an installer. The complete activity is inside that one file.

If the activity loads and you can interact with it, you have everything you need.

Why Each Student Needs Their Own Copy

This is one of the most important things to understand before sharing the file with your class.

Saves and progress stay on the device

Most HTML activities store student progress in the browser on that device (using a feature called localStorage). Progress is tied to that specific copy of the file and that browser profile on that computer or Chromebook.

If several students open the same shared file from one teacher link (for example, everyone clicking the same Google Drive "view" link), their saves can overwrite each other or fail to save at all. This is especially common on shared Chromebooks.

Licensing

Your purchase covers one teacher's classroom. You may distribute copies to your own students as part of your licensed classroom use. Students should work from their own copy of the file that you provide, not from a public link to your master file that anyone on the internet could download.

What to do instead

- Keep one master copy for yourself (for testing, projecting, or making copies).
- Give each student their own copy using one of the methods in this guide.
- Remind students to use the activity's Save option (often in a menu) before closing the browser, when the activity includes save features.

How to Install and Open (Teacher Testing)

There is nothing to install in the traditional sense. Follow these steps once on your own device before assigning the activity to students.

1. Download the .html file from Teachers Pay Teachers (My Purchases, then Download).
2. Save it somewhere easy to find, such as your Desktop, Documents folder, or Google Drive. Moving it out of the temporary Downloads folder can help save work more reliably.
3. Open the file in Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge (double-click, or right-click and choose Open with).
4. Explore the activity briefly. Confirm that it loads, that buttons and interactions work, and that any Save feature works on your device.
5. If your activity includes saves, test them: save once, close the browser tab, reopen the same file, and confirm your progress returns.

Once you have confirmed it works on your device, choose a distribution method below for your students.

Ways to Give Students Their Own Copy

Each method below is designed so students open their own copy of the file, not a single shared file the whole class edits at once.

1. Google Classroom

Option A: Make a copy for each student (recommended when available)

1. Create an assignment in Google Classroom.
2. Attach the .html file.
3. If your Classroom version offers Make a copy for each student, select that option.
4. Tell students to open the file from the assignment, then open it in Chrome or Edge (not inside a preview that may not run the activity correctly).
5. Remind students to use the activity's Save option before closing, when saves are available.

Option B: Students download their own copy

1. Attach the file to an assignment or post as Students can view.
2. Instruct students to download the file to their device or Google Drive.
3. Students open their downloaded copy in Chrome or Edge.

2. Google Drive (teacher shares copies)

1. Upload your master .html file to your Google Drive.
2. For each student (or the whole class), share a link with instructions to Make a copy:
 - Student opens the link, then chooses File -> Make a copy (or right-click -> Make a copy).
 - The copy is saved in their Drive under their account.
3. Alternatively, place a copy of the file in each student's shared folder or Google Classroom assignment folder.
4. Students open their copy by right-clicking in Drive and choosing Open with -> Google Chrome.

Do not share one "anyone with the link can edit" file for the entire class to use as their working copy. That leads to lost or overwritten saves.

3. School LMS (Canvas, Schoology, and others)

1. Upload the .html file as a file download or assignment attachment in your LMS.
2. Tell students to download the file to their device (or to their Google Drive on a Chromebook).
3. Students open the downloaded file in Chrome or Edge. Viewing inside the LMS file preview often does not run HTML activities correctly.
4. Remind students to save progress through the activity's menu before closing.

4. Email or direct device handoff

1. Students download the file from Classroom, Drive, email, or a USB drive you provide.

2. They save it to a folder they can find again (Desktop, Documents, or My Drive).
3. They open their saved copy in Chrome or Edge.
4. They use the activity's Save feature before closing the browser when applicable.

5. Chromebook note

On Chromebooks, saves work best when the file lives in the student's own Google Drive and is opened with Google Chrome, not when the whole class opens one teacher-shared view link.

1. Student downloads or makes a copy into My Drive on their Google account.
2. In Drive, right-click the file -> Open with -> Google Chrome.
3. Student works from that copy and saves through the activity menu before closing.

Chromebook and Google Drive (Recommended Setup)

For schools that rely on Chromebooks, this setup avoids the most common save problems.

1. You keep one master copy. Students each get their own copy (Classroom "make a copy," Drive "make a copy," or download).
2. Student saves the file to My Drive on their account (not only opening a teacher's shared view link).
3. Student right-clicks the file in Drive -> Open with -> Google Chrome.
4. Student uses the activity normally and chooses Save from the menu (when the activity supports saves) before closing the tab.
5. To continue later, student opens the same file in their Drive again with Chrome.

Avoid: Posting one shared Drive link and telling the whole class to "just open this link" without making copies. Multiple students opening the same file this way often causes saves to conflict or disappear.

Troubleshooting

Blank page or nothing loads

- Open the .html file in Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge, not in Word, Preview, or a restricted school browser.
- Re-download from Teachers Pay Teachers if the file may be incomplete.
- Disable "Open in browser" preview in the LMS; download the file first.

Saves not working or progress disappears

- Confirm the student is using their own copy of the file, not a shared class link.
- On Chromebooks, save the file to the student's Google Drive and open with Chrome.
- Avoid Incognito or private browsing if the activity stores progress in the browser.
- Use the activity's Save option in the menu before closing the tab.

Shared Chromebook issues

- Saves are tied to the Google account signed in on that Chromebook. Each student should be signed into their own account and use their own copy of the file.

File icon looks like a link

- That is normal for HTML files. Open with Chrome or Edge to run the activity.

Copyright and License

This HTML digital product is licensed for use by the purchasing teacher with their own students in their classroom only.

- Do not post the file on open websites, public shared drives, or district servers where people without a license can download it.
- Do not share your master file link publicly on social media or open file-sharing sites.
- Colleagues who want to use the activity must purchase their own license through Teachers Pay Teachers.

Thank you for supporting independent educational resources and for using this product responsibly with your students.