Build Your First Website: Code, Create & Launch with AI!

A beginner-friendly, self-paced workshop for middle and high school students to build their first business website.

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1. What Is a Website? (and What Makes It Work?)

A website is a collection of linked pages on the internet. Every website has:
- A domain (like yourbusiness.com)
- Files and code (HTML, CSS, JS)
- A host (where your site lives)
Websites run in browsers and are built using code or builders. We'll explore both!

2. No-Code Tools: Wix, WordPress, and AI Website Builders

Explore these tools:

Wix: https://www.wix.com

WordPress: https://wordpress.com

Dora AI: https://dora.run

Durable: https://durable.co

Framer: https://framer.com

3. Your Business Idea: Branding and Planning

Think of a business idea:
- Name your business
- Choose colors and fonts
- Sketch your homepage layout using paper or Canva.

Canva: https://www.canva.com

4. Let's Code! Build Your First Page with HTML & CSS

HTML Example:

```
<html>
  <head><title>My Site</title></head>
  <body>
    <h1>Welcome!</h1>
    <p>This is my business page.</p>
  </body>
</html>
```

CSS Example:

```
body { font-family: Arial; background: #f0f0f0; }
```

5. AI in Web Design: How to Use ChatGPT, Dora AI, and More

Use ChatGPT (https://chat.openai.com) to:
- Generate HTML & CSS for a homepage
- Build a form, a menu, or a business card layout
- Fix your code and explain what it does

⏺ Try these prompts:
- 'Write a basic HTML and CSS template for a pizza delivery homepage.'
- 'Make a personal portfolio site with navigation and footer.'
- 'Create a product landing page using modern CSS.'

Paste the code into CodePen to see your site live: https://codepen.io

Also try Dora AI: https://dora.run

6. Building with WordPress (the Real Way!)

Start at https://wordpress.com and choose a free template. About 40% of websites globally use WordPress.
Explore themes, add pages, and install plugins. For advanced use, try hosting WordPress with https://www.bluehost.com

7. Website Launch Checklist

- Finalize design
- Test on different devices
- Register your domain
- Publish
Extras: Add analytics, contact forms, and social media links

8. Final Challenge: Build & Share Your Business Site

Create a homepage using your tool of choice.

Publish your site or screenshot it and share with your class or teacher.