01 / START HERE

Student template editing guideline

Turn the starter website into a travel-inspired cultural guide using your own writing, research, and images. Explore your own culture or choose one you want to learn about. Personal disclosure is optional.

1. Make a working copy

If you received a ZIP, extract it first. Duplicate the whole project folder and keep an untouched backup. Work inside the copy; keep its folders together.

2. Open the website and the code

Double-click **index.html** to preview it in a browser. Open the same file in a plain-text or code editor, such as VS Code. Save a small change, then refresh the browser to see it. No installation or server is needed to view the site.

3. Choose a clear focus

Name the culture, community, and place you will discuss. Collect examples for places and landscapes, food and gathering, arts and traditions, and daily life. Follow your teacher's rubric for the required scope and length.

The files you will use

File or folder	What it controls
index.html	All page text, image references, captions, navigation, and eight writing-guide templates.
styles/italia.css	Colors, fonts, spacing, and responsive layout.
scripts/italia.js	Menu, filters, dialogs, writing-process text, and the local project brief.
assets/italy-supplied/	JPEG image placeholders and the PNG browser icon. The names can stay even when your topic is another culture.

Work on the delivered files
Do not run **tools/build_theme.py** or **tools/student_template.py** after customizing the site. They regenerate the starter and overwrite your HTML and replacement images. Older HTML pages redirect to sections of index.html.

02 / WRITE AND EDIT

Replace prompts with your story.

Edit the words between HTML tags. Keep the surrounding structure so the page continues to display and behave correctly. Use Find in your editor to locate the section names below.

Find in index.html	What to edit
<title>, description metadata, wordmark, brand-caption	Set your browser title, short site description, project name, and chosen culture. Update the footer credit too.
id="hero-title" class="hero-description"	Introduce the culture and the focus of your guide in a clear title and short opening paragraph.
id="destinations"	Develop the four cultural topic cards, including text inside each expandable "Develop this section" panel.
id="journeys"	Update the four writing-guide cards and their expanded explanations. Keep their filter attributes.
id="cuisine"	Replace the headings and descriptions in the 15 food cards with specific examples and their cultural meaning.
id="approach" id="questions"	Explain your research approach and review the project questions for relevance.
<template id="city-details-...	Review all eight hidden templates near the end of the main content. Their text appears inside dialogs.

A safe text edit

```
<h3>A dish with a story</h3>
<!-- Replace only the heading text, for example: -->
<h3>A family recipe for celebration</h3>
```

Keep opening and closing tags paired. Write an ampersand as **&** in HTML. Change one section at a time, save, and preview. Avoid replacing every occurrence of a legacy place name: some are internal keys.

Preserve the working connections
Keep **id**, **class**, filter values, form **name** attributes, and behavior-related **data-*** attributes. Keys such as coast, tuscany, venice, and lakes connect cards, filters, and dialogs. Update descriptive labels and image alt text to match your work.

03 / REPLACE IMAGES

One subject. Every image size.

The template contains 20 image subjects used in 26 image placements. Some subjects appear in several sections. Replacing a file updates every placement that uses it.

1. Choose and record your image

Use your own photograph or an image you have permission to use. Keep the creator, source link, and license or permission details. Choose a source large enough for its biggest required version.

2. Crop and export each version

Read the size labels beside each placeholder or use the reference on page 4. Crop to the right shape, then resize to each exact width and height. Export real JPEG files; renaming a PNG to .jpg does not convert it. Optimized progressive JPEG at quality 75-85 is a useful starting point. Check the result for blur.

3. Replace files with the same names

Put each exported image in **assets/italy-supplied/**. Replace all variants for that subject, including -640 and, for positano, -1280. Browsers may choose different files from srcset at different screen sizes. Keep paths, width, height, sizes, and loading attributes intact.

4. Describe, caption, and credit

Update the **alt** text at every use of the image. Describe what matters in the scene, rather than saying "image placeholder." Add visible context and a creator credit near the image; food cards already have a figcaption. Credit information belongs in visible text, separate from alt text.

Example: update an existing alt attribute

```
alt="A cook folds dumplings at a family kitchen table"
```

Adapt that description to your actual image. If the source file is reused in the hero and a card, search for its filename and update both placements. The optional **data-provenance** image label currently says original-placeholder; replace it with a truthful label for your image, or remove it.

Finish the visible presentation
After checking the replacements, remove the helper blocks marked **class="asset-note"** (and the empty hero-asset-note wrapper if needed). Preserve the image and any meaningful caption. Do not leave placeholder paths or instructions as the finished caption. Replace favicon.png with a real 64 x 64 PNG if you want a custom browser icon.

04 / IMAGE REFERENCE

Exact export sizes

All files below live in **assets/italy-supplied/**. For each base name, save **name.jpg** at the main size and **name-640.jpg** at the small size. Values are width x height in pixels.

Base filename	Main .jpg	-640.jpg
positano	1800 x 1200	640 x 427
florence	1280 x 941	640 x 470
venice	1280 x 853	640 x 427
lake-como	1280 x 850	640 x 425
coastal-terrace	1280 x 789	640 x 394
prawn-pasta	1280 x 800	640 x 400
mussel-pasta	1280 x 854	640 x 427
creamy-prawn-pasta	1280 x 853	640 x 427
fettuccine	1280 x 731	640 x 366
salumi	1280 x 853	640 x 427
antipasti	1280 x 1280	640 x 640
polpette	1280 x 854	640 x 427
garlic-bread	1280 x 718	640 x 359
ricotta-cake	1280 x 854	640 x 427
braised-shank	1280 x 853	640 x 427
pistachio-gelato	1280 x 1280	640 x 640
pizza	1280 x 853	640 x 427
pastries	1280 x 853	640 x 427
cannoli	1280 x 960	640 x 480
ravioli	1280 x 853	640 x 427

Extra hero version: positano-1280.jpg must be **1280 x 853**.
Browser icon: favicon.png must be **64 x 64**.

Use the names as technical slots
The first four subjects serve the four cultural topics; positano also supplies the hero. coastal-terrace serves the planner. The remaining 15 subjects supply food stories. These names do not require you to write about Italy or the foods named in the files.

Reference: tools/placeholder-assets.json, checked against the starter image dimensions. Total: 41 JPEG files plus 1 PNG icon. Match the exact heights; not all images share the same aspect ratio.

05 / STYLE, SOURCES, AND PLANNING

Make it yours. Keep it usable.

Complete your content first, then make small visual adjustments. Check readability and keyboard access after each change.

Choose a built-in accent palette

In index.html, change only the value of **data-palette** on the body tag. For example:

```
<body id="top" data-palette="green">
```

Available values: **default, blue, dark-blue, gray, green, orange, purple, red, yellow**. A palette query in the address, such as ?palette=blue, overrides the body value while JavaScript is running; remove it when checking your saved choice.

For further styling, edit the color and font variables near the top of **styles/italia.css**. Keep text clearly readable against its background. Preserve focus styles and the mobile media queries. Avoid fixed widths that make the page scroll sideways.

Write about people with care

Name the community, region, or family whose experience you describe. Explain variation and change rather than presenting one example as universal. Separate personal observations from researched claims. Use your own words and make clear why each example matters.

Keep source credits visible on the website

Add brief credits beside relevant text or images and a visible sources list in the page, for example near Your approach. For research, record **author or organization, title, URL, and access date**. For images, record **creator, title or description, source URL, and license or permission**. Follow any citation style your teacher specifies.

The planner does not edit or submit the website
The Project planner creates **my-culture-project-brief.txt** on your device. Enter the required name or initials, culture, and explanation; create the brief, then click its download link. Nothing is sent or stored online. Download before leaving or refreshing. Notes and credits typed into the form are not automatically added to the website.

If you customize the writing dialogs

The eight detailed prompts live in index.html templates. The four topic titles and suggested writing-process lists live in the **itineraries** object near the top of scripts/italia.js. Edit only their text strings if needed; preserve the internal keys, quotes, commas, and brackets. You can leave the prompts as guidance if your teacher prefers.

06 / REVIEW AND SUBMIT

Check the complete student experience.

Use this checklist on the saved website. Your teacher's assignment instructions determine what to submit and how much content is required.

- [ ] **Content:** Replace student-facing placeholders with your finished work. Review the header, hero, topic cards, food captions, footer, and dialog content. Verify spelling and cultural context.
- [ ] **Images:** Confirm every replacement and variant loads. Check crops at wide and narrow widths. Replace placeholder alt text; add visible captions and credits.
- [ ] **Navigation:** Test section links, the mobile Menu button, topic filters, finder selections, expandable panels, and the filter reset.
- [ ] **Dialogs:** Open the eight question buttons and four topic guides. Check Close and Escape. Confirm "Plan this topic" selects the expected planner topic.
- [ ] **Planner:** Complete required fields, create a brief, download it, and open the TXT file. Edit a field and create a fresh brief. Check Clear.
- [ ] **Accessibility and layout:** Use Tab, Shift+Tab, and Enter to move through controls. Confirm focus is visible. Check a narrow phone-sized window and 200% browser zoom for clipped text or sideways scrolling.

Quick fixes

What you see	What to check
Old or missing image	Save and refresh; try Ctrl+F5. Check exact filename, folder, capitalization, extension, and every srcset variant.
Text or layout looks broken	Undo your last edit. Check closing tags and attribute quotes; compare with your backup.
A control stops working	Restore changed IDs or data attributes. Confirm scripts/italia.js still loads and any edited strings are valid.

Package the project

Save all files. Keep index.html, styles/, scripts/, assets/, this PDF, and any supporting files your page links to together in the same relative locations. If a ZIP is requested, compress the finished project folder, extract it into a fresh folder, and open that copy of index.html for one final check. Submit the ZIP and any separately requested brief or sources through your teacher's chosen method.