HTML <textarea> Tag

Description, syntax, usage, attributes and examples of the HTML <textarea> tag HTML-5.com is a great guide for web developers. TV Series & Actors and Actresses. Follow TV Series and HTML 5 on Google+.

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The <textarea> Tag in HTML 5

The <textarea> tag is used to create a multiple-line text input area in an HTML form. For a single line of text input, use the <input> tag instead.

The `textarea` tag's content should include only text. It should not have any child elements, such as style tags, for example. As in any HTML code, ampersands should be escaped with `&`.

<form> <label for="ex1cmnts">Comments:</label> <textarea id="ex1cmnts" placeholder="Your comments" cols="70" rows="3">Initial text & stuff ....</textarea> </form>
This is an actual working demo of the <textarea> example code below.

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<textarea> Tag Syntax

```
<a mode="pre" href="../body-tag/index.html#syntax"><body></a>
    ...
    <a mode="pre" href="../html-tag-list.html#flow-content-model">... flow content expected ...
    <<a mode="pre" href="../form-tag/index.html#syntax">form</a>   <a mode="pre" href="../../at
      ...
      <a mode="pre" href="../html-tag-list.html#phrasing-content-model">... phrasing content e
      <a mode="pre" href="../../definitions/index.html#phrasing-content">... phrasing content
      ...
    </form>
    ...
    <a mode="pre" href="../html-tag-list.html#phrasing-content-model">... phrasing content expe
    <a mode="pre" href="../../definitions/index.html#phrasing-content">... phrasing content ...
    ...
  </body>
```

Rules for coding HTML `textarea` elements

Make sure you understand the difference between a tag and element and are familiar with the definitions of namespace and other HTML terms.

1. Code the **textarea** element where phrasing content is expected, usually inside a **form element**.
2. Begin the **textarea** element with a starting <textarea> tag. The element name uses lower case letters and should be in the HTML namespace, which it will pick up automatically from the `xmlns` attribute on the <html> tag.

3. If the field is for a form that can be submitted but is *outside* that **form** element, include a `form` attribute referencing the form the textarea is to be associated with.

4. Include any other attributes on the <textarea> tag as appropriate.

5. Inside the **textarea** element, between the starting `<textarea>` tag and the ending `</textarea>` tag, code the inner HTML phrasing content.

6. End the **textarea** element with a matching `</textarea>` closing tag.

Content Model

The content of the **textarea** element can include HTML comments, text content and only those HTML tags that can be used in phrasing content.

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<textarea> Tag Attributes

Attributes of the <textarea> tag

global attributes	In addition to the personal attributes of the <textarea> tag below, any of the common HTML attributes can also be coded.
`cols`, `rows`	When `wrap="hard"` is specified, the `cols` attribute must also be specified.
`autofocus="autofocus"`	Sets the value of the <textarea autofocus> boolean attribute to `true`. Omitting it sets to `false`.
`disabled="disabled"`	Sets the value of the <textarea disabled> boolean attribute to `true`. Omitting it sets to `false`.
`form`	
`maxlength`	
`name`	
`placeholder`	
`readonly="readonly"`	Sets the value of the <textarea readonly> boolean attribute to `true`. Omitting it sets to `false`.
`required="required"`	Sets the value of the <textarea required> boolean attribute to `true`. Omitting it sets to `false`.
`wrap="soft"` `wrap="hard"`	

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<textarea> Tag Examples

Examples of the `textarea` **tag in HTML 5**

Text input area with placeholder in HTML form

```
<form>
    <label for="ex1cmnts">Comments:</label>
    <textarea id="ex1cmnts" placeholder="Your comments"
      cols="70" rows="3">Initial text &amp; stuff ....</textarea>
</form>
```

Text input area that scrolls horizontally

```
<form>
    <label for="ex2cmnts">Comments:</label>
    <textarea id="ex2cmnts" cols="40" rows="3" placeholder="Your comments"
      style="white-space: nowrap">This text input area will not be wrapped
➡ but will scroll horizontally instead.</textarea>
</form>
```

<form> <label for="ex2cmnts">Comments:</label> <textarea id="ex2cmnts" cols="40" rows="3" placeholder="Your comments" style="white-space: nowrap">This text input area will not be wrapped but will scroll horizontally instead.</textarea> </form>

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Changes in HTML 5 - <textarea> Tag

What's new in HTML 5

The autofocus="autofocus", form, placeholder and required="required" attributes have been added.

Differences between HTML 5 and earlier versions of HTML

The 2000-2010 Recommendations from the W3C HTML Working Group defined the HTML namespace for the **textarea** element type name along with the names of all HTML element types. In older (pre-2000) versions of HTML, element type names were not associated with a namespace.

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THE END