Introduction – Exercise 1

Analysis and Critique of Interactive Data Stories

This is a team exercise. Each team will be assigned one of the following interactive data stories:

- Story A: **A Disappearing Planet**
  https://projects.propublica.org/extinctions/

- Story B: **Why do cats & dogs…?**
  https://whydocatsanddogs.com

- Story C: **The physical traits that define Man & Women in literature**
  https://pudding.cool/2020/07/gendered-descriptions/

- Story D: **Why the super rich are inevitable**
  https://pudding.cool/2022/12/yard-sale/

Your job is to critically analyze your data story and present your findings to the other teams. Write up your findings for b) and c) in a document to be shared with the other teams after the exercise. Time-Box yourself tightly!

a) *(10min)* Start by exploring the story individually.

b) *(9min)* Then, get together with your team-mates and discuss, **how** the story implements the aspects of storytelling with interactive data visualization:
   - *Narrative Structure*: what is the Introduction, the Body, the Conclusion?
   - *Visual Elements*: what visual elements are being used?
   - *User Interaction*: which user actions are possible?

c) *(21min)* Discuss, **how well** the story is done – what is great and what could be improved? How well are the potential the benefits of interactive data storytelling realized by this story?
   - *Enhanced Understanding*: How nicely does it help the users to grasp complex data through a coherent narrative?
   - *Increased Engagement*: How well do the interactive elements keep the user engaged and make the data exploration process enjoyable?
   - *Improved Decision-Making*: Does it provide a clear and compelling narrative that can inform and influence decisions? What are the decisions to be made by the user?
   - *Personalization*: How well can users interact with the data to focus on areas relevant to them, making the story more impactful?

   - *Narrative Structure*: how well is the narrative structure written?
   - *Visual Elements*: how fitting is the choice of visual elements?
   - *User Interaction*: how fitting are the user interactions chosen?

d) *(5min)* Design a "talk track" – you will have 10min to tell the other teams about your story and your findings. Use the data story directly + your notes in the document created during exercise b) and c).
   Do not make slides.