In terms of our team’s process, we did a solid job of collaboration, making sure to meet up as a group each time we worked. This helped us to easily bounce ideas off of each other in real-time and to divide up the work fairly. We began by designing our relational database for a fictitious Lemonade Stand company, making sure to think through all the tables we would need as well as all our assumptions (only one employee per stand, for example). Although we chose to use a lemonade stand for this project due to its simplicity, the project scope nevertheless became larger than we had expected. For example, we had to accommodate having ten distinct products rather than the initial one (original lemonade) that we had planned on.

We ran into various stumbling blocks along the way. For one of these, our team decided to collaborate using Google Docs so that we could all be on the same document at once; however when it came time to transfer this content to a sql document we ran into syntax errors related to the way in which Visual Studio translated the pasted text content. We had to use the control + F function to replace all our apostrophes, for example. We also had to do search for answers on how to properly insert and format dates in sql.

Creating the database and designing the queries also presented unforeseen challenges. One interesting discovery is that strings stored using the TEXT data type cannot be compared. This made any query in which either tables were joined by TEXT columns or queries were grouped by a TEXT column impossible. Storing strings with the varchar() data type solved this issue.

With regard to team efficiency, we successfully employed each of our skills in order to get the database up and running quickly. For example, we collaborated on a google presentation in order to build the relationship diagram. Then, once we knew what the relationships were, we divided the work into two processes that could occur simultaneously: one team member wrote the sql script to create the database and subqueries while the others handled the laborious task of coding fake data. We have no complaints with regard to how our approach worked out, and we were happy with our team dynamic.