Module One: Dear Data Redux

By: Grace Coleman

Question/Visualization 1

Question Asked:
- What do I eat the most as a snack?

Data Collection Method:
       I collected data for this question by writing in my school notebook each time that I snacked for 5 days. I would write in the notebook the food I was snacking on, what time I was eating the snack, and where I was eating the snack which was beneficial data for all of my questions for this assignment. I kept this notebook with me most of the time. On the few occasions where I did not have my notebook with me when I was eating a snack, I wrote the previously stated information (snack, time, location) in my phone and then transferred this information into the notebook at a convenient time, typically when I had my notebook back in my possession.

Visualization:
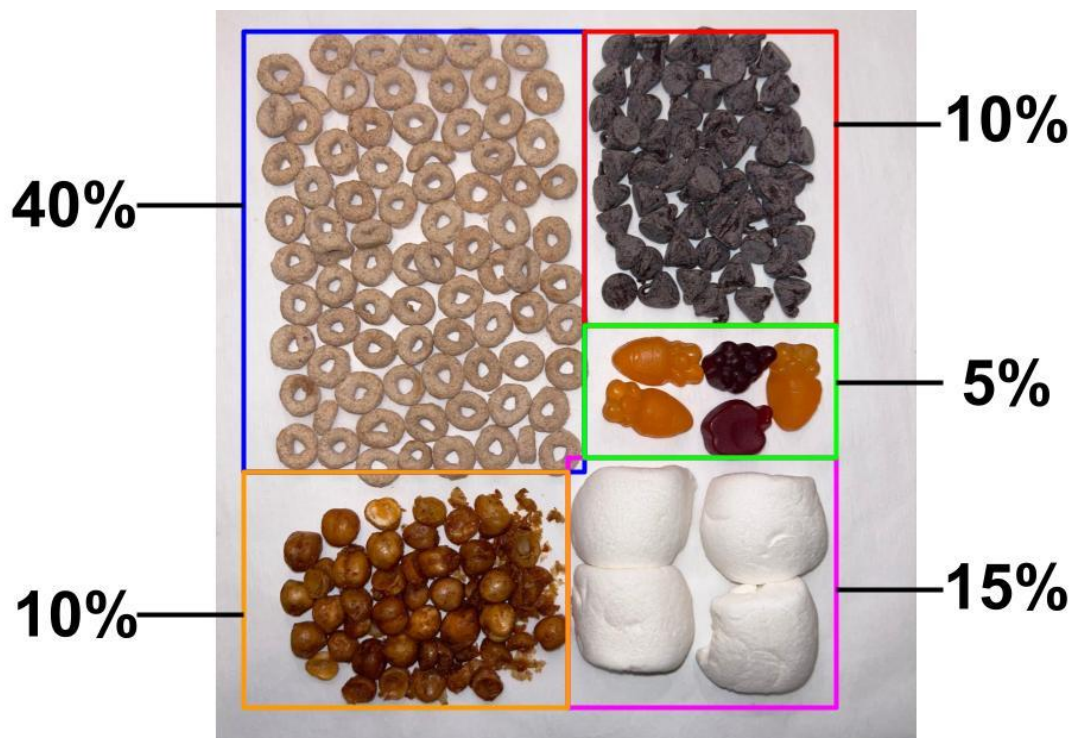
Process of Creating Visualization:
I created the visualization using the snacks that I ate during the data collection process. The snacks include: cheerios, crispy garbanzo beans, chocolate chips, marshmallows, and fruit

snacks. The visualization shows the physical representation of the percentages of each snack I ate throughout the data collection process. During the data collection process I ate out of all the times I ate a snack 40% of the time I chose to eat cheerios, 15% marshmallows, 10% crispy garbanzo beans, 10% chocolate chips, and 5% fruit snacks. The process of creating the visualization was collecting these snacks and placing them on a table. With the snacks I had, I made 100% of the snacks I ate and tailored each snacks' percentage to the percentage that I ate that snack while collecting data. The outcome was the picture you see with the addition of digital boxes and percentages so it is easy for the user to see each and identify each snack and its percentage.

Synthesis for Question/Visualization 1:
My synthesis for visualization 1 is that I eat a variety of snacks with cheerios being the snack I eat the most. I can also see from this visualization that I like sweet snacks like gummies, marshmallows, and chocolate, and bland snacks like cheerios and crispy garbanzo beans. I can also see from this visualization that the snacks I eat are almost all ingredients or simple foods. I do not eat snacks like baked goods or side dishes, rather I eat quick and easily hold-able snacks.
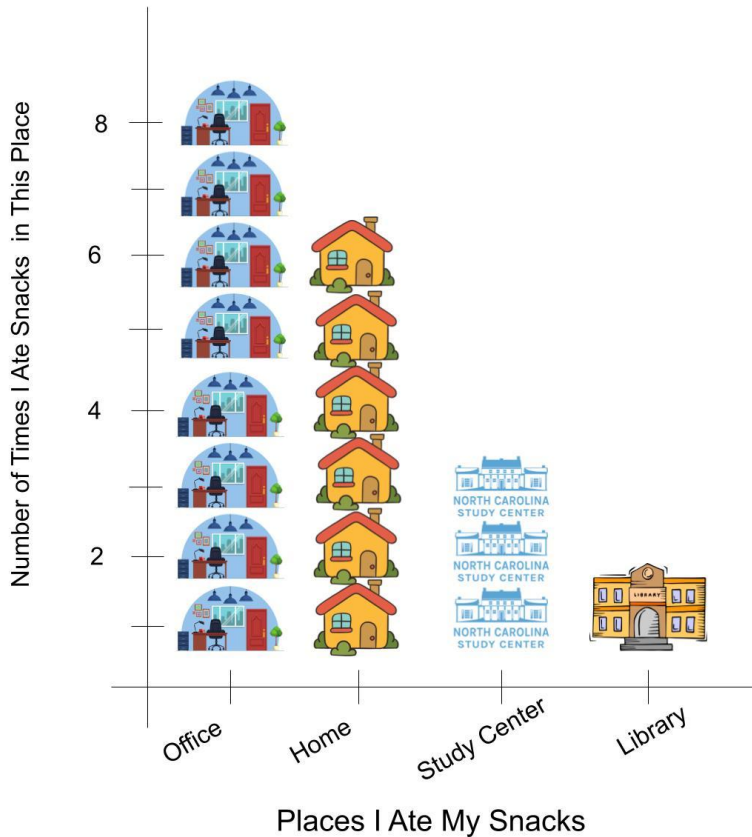
Question/Visualization 2

Question Asked:
- Where do I snack the most?

Data Collection Method:
I collected the data for this question in tandem with the last question. I wrote down the place where I would eat my snacks in a notebook and then added them up at the end of the data collection so I would be able to manipulate it into a visualization.

Where Did I Eat My Snacks?

Process of Creating Visualization:
I created this visualization using the data I collected and with the idea to make a more creative bar graph. With the data I collected I grouped all the places I ate and used that data to make the graph. The graph I made is a bar graph with each icon representing one time where I ate a snack in that certain place. So from the graph we can see that I ate in my office 8 times, my house 6 times, the study center 3 times, and the library once. I decided to do icons so it is more engaging to the viewers and so the viewers can actually see how many times I was eating in this place, instead of doing simple bar graphs.

Synthesis for Question/Visualization 2:
My synthesis for visualization 2 is that I eat most of my snacks in my office but my house is a close second. These spaces are both private whereas the study center and the library are public. I like to eat my snacks alone and not talk to anyone while eating, so eating in my office and my house are the main places I like to snack. This visualization also shows how I am a creature of habit and almost always eat a snack or two everyday in the same place(s).

Question/Visualization 3

Question Asked:
- What times do I snack the most?

Data Collection Method:

I collected data for the question in tandem with the other two questions in my notebook. I wrote down each time that I ate each snack and whether it was AM or PM. I also noted why I was eating at the time (i.e. hungry, bored, craving, etc.) however I decided to forgo using the information about why I was snacking as the data did not seem it would lead to any conclusions, also sometimes I did not think about why I was eating. So for this visualization I am using the time I ate the snack and whether it was in the AM or PM.
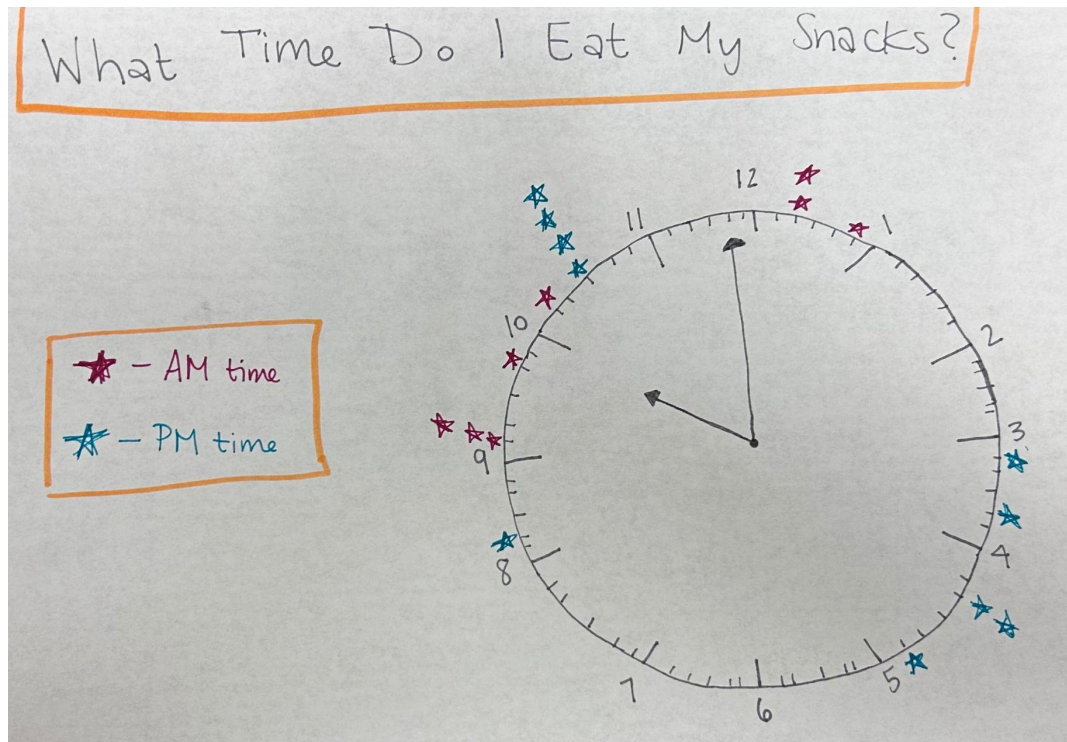
Process of Creating Visualization:

I created this visualization thinking about how I would represent time and everytime I ate. I decided to create a clock and mark each time I ate on this clock. I created a legend to represent whether I ate during this time in AM or PM. I also chose some stylistic choices of making each time I ate a snack I made it a star. I also chose to stack the stars on each other, if I ate a snack at the same time as another. The clock hands do not mean anything, they are just a stylistic choice.

Synthesis for Question/Visualization 3:

My synthesis for visualization 3 was that the common time that I eat my snacks is at 10:15PM and the next most common time I eat a snack is 9:05AM. This is not a surprise as I know almost every night I have a sweet treat before I go to sleep at 11PM and because I almost always eat a snack after my 8AM class on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. This visualization also showed me how I also do not eat snacks in the middle of the night and early morning I do not eat snacks as I am sleeping or eating breakfast during this time rather than snacking.

Overall Synthesis:

My overall synthesis for the assignment is about my snacking habits. This is the common theme behind all of the questions I asked. I wanted to know what snacks I ate, where I ate them, and when I ate them. With this data I was able to see how many snacks I eat… which is a lot. These visualizations potentially show me that I am not eating enough during my meals and show me that I need to eat more to keep me satisfied for longer. Also with the data I collected I would like to further investigate why I eat so many snacks as this is a question that has arisen (am I hungry when I snack?, am I bored when I eat?, do I just eat because I am offered snacks?). These questions have arisen and I would like to do further analysis on my snacking habits from these visualizations and data I've collected. I did see patterns from this data and visualizations and I now believe I would be able to guess the snack I would eat, where I would eat it, and what time I would mostly eat that snack from my previous data and visualizations. This data was very insightful and allowed me to recognize my snacking habits. Doing this data collection and visualization has shown me how helpful tracking your own data can be as well as how I am a creature of habit.

Submitting for Extra Credit Points #3 - A common thread