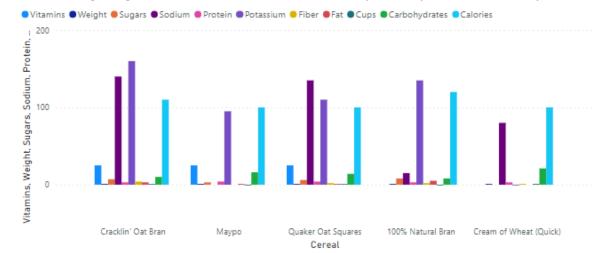Activity 2
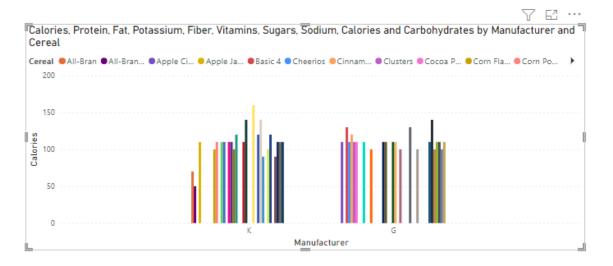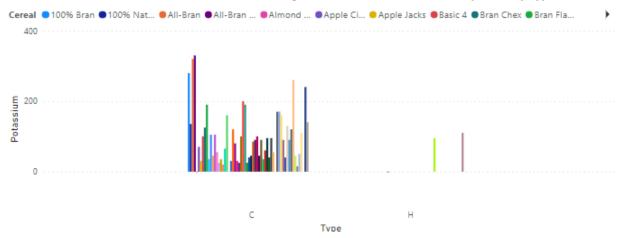
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CSPB 4122

Power BI Visualizations:

Vitamins, Weight, Sugars, Sodium, Protein, Potassium, Fiber, Fat, Cups, Carbohydrates and Calories by Cereal

Calories, Protein, Fat, Potassium, Fiber, Vitamins, Sugars, Sodium, Calories and Carbohydrates by Manufacturer and Cereal

Potassium, Protein, Fat, Potassium, Fiber, Vitamins, Sugars, Sodium, Calories and Carbohydrates by Type and Cereal

Cereal ● 100% Bran ● 100% Nat... ● All-Bran ● All-Bran ... ● Almond ... ● Apple Ci... ● Apple Jacks ● Basic 4 ● Bran Chex ● Bran Fla... ▶

Potassium (y-axis: 0, 200, 400)

Type: C, H

For Activity One, I really wanted to use Vis tools to analyze the data, I see after completing this activity why we couldn't. Only three of my insights could be visualized, and I'm still not completely sure if I did it right. Using this method instead of manually sifting through the data was actually more complicated than I thought it was going to be, but I was able to see the differences and similarities much clearer and realized some of the observations I had previous made were not the most accurate, although some were. Of course, every dataset had outliers, but the overall data supported my observations. For example, I made an insight that the wheat cereals have less nutritional value than the other cereals (graph 1), and this was true for the most part. There were some spikes, but when compared to regular cereal, it was still less.

I first had to get used to the Power BI tool, insert the data from the Excel file, and finally figure out the visualization tools available to me. I wanted to find the type to represent my insights, which ultimately ended up being bar graphs for all of my insights. I feel as my lack of experience with the tool also played into some of the difficulties I had with using it to visualize the data. I have some experience with seeing Power BI at work. I haven't had to use it personally, but I have seen how different organizations use it. The tool seems to mostly be used to display an organizations insights and data in a neatly formatted and organized way.

The whole process reminded me of the four nested levels of design. Where last time we had to manually go through the process ourselves, this time the Power BI tool essentially did this for us. The only thing we really had to do ourselves is the idiom part, which is picking out the appropriate vis tool, although I do wish I could see more of the algorithm used. Overall, the Power BI tool was incredibly useful in analyzing the data, and actually being able to visualize the data rather than just looking at it made it easier to see the differences and similarities between everything.