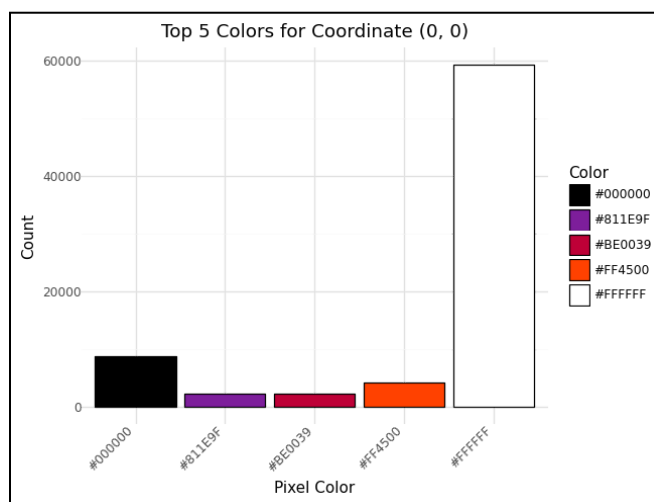


Week 4 Analysis - Why are the most painted pixels the most painted?

The r/place event is a famous online experiment where redditors were able to place one pixel on a shared canvas every few minutes. Millions of people participated in this event, some placing pixels more than once. This has resulted in a chaotic but fascinating development of mixed artwork and memes.

After looking into the r/place dataset with records of each pixel placement (time occurred, user id, pixel color, coordinate), it was evident that some pixels get placed way more than others. Thus, this analysis aims to identify why the top three most placed pixels were generating so much user activity.



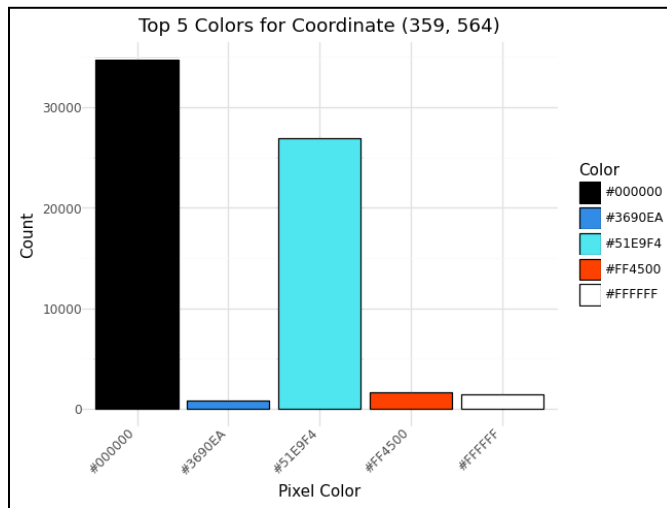
The most popular coordinate (0,0), which was placed 98807 times, is the top left corner of the canvas and is the placement for the image with warnings:

*"Connection Lost.....
Please wait - attempting to reestablish"*

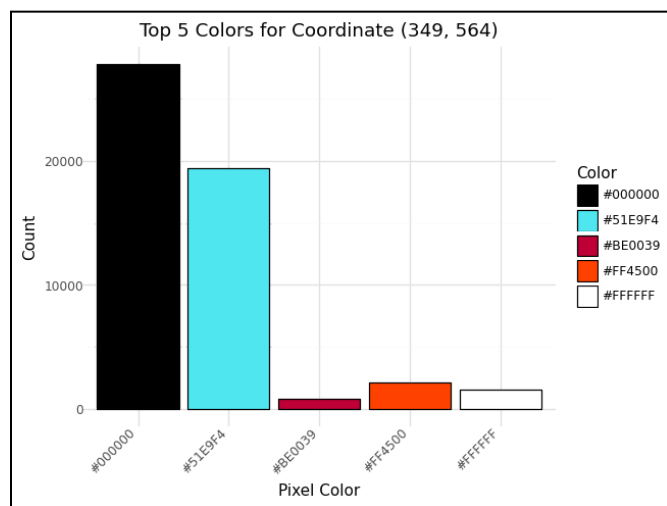
Given that the most popular coordinate is also the origin of the entire canvas, it may not be a surprise that it gains the most attention, especially in the beginning of the event. After identifying the most popular colors placed on (0,0), the results were able to show the color white to be the most

popular color (placed 59282 times), followed by black (placed 8715 times), and other random colors that are not visible in this specific area. After watching a timelapse of the event, it seems like users were competing for space or dominance on specific locations. Of the five most prominent colors of the pixel, black, purple, red, and orange were most likely a result of competing users or accidental placements. White, being the most dominant color, also seems to be the most reasonable color placed in the (0,0) coordinate, as it is the top left corner, with the main image being surrounded by a white border.

The second most popular coordinate, (359, 564), placed 69198 times, is the right eye of the Straw Hat Pirates' flag from One Piece. Despite its less central location on the canvas, One Piece has a massive global fanbase, which likely contributes to its high pixel placement count. Later r/place events, like in 2023, also generated more drawings from One Piece showing fan dedication. This shows that fans are working to keep One Piece art on the canvas. The most popular color, black, makes the most sense, as the actual depiction of the Straw Hat Pirate's eyes are truly black. Blue was also a popular choice among the pool of colors, having 26940 placements.



This may be caused by the pirate's resemblance to Sans from Undertale, with glowing blue eyes. Users may have tried to compete with the One Piece fans to make the skull resemble Sans with his glowing blue eyes. The remaining colors seem to be very prominent colors in the piece as well. These placements may be due to accidents.



Lastly, and similarly, the third most popular coordinate (349, 564), placed 55230 times, is on the same piece - the Straw Hat Pirates' flag from One Piece, but on its left eye. Due to the pixel being in almost the exact same location, similar arguments could be made about its popularity.

Overall, the high placement counts of these three pixels highlight the competitive and collaborative nature of r/place. Whether it is due to importance, fandom dedication, or competition in changing currently existing work, these pixels

became hotspots for user activity. The presence of random colors and the results of the time lapse also suggests ongoing competition between different users. This event has truly showed how user interaction was able to create such fascinating work.