Student IronViz Data Question:

Challenge Overview: Carnegie Mellon University leadership is seeking to better understand candy sales to ensure they are meeting students' sugar and energy needs, especially for late-night study sessions. They need insights into candy sales trends and correlations with student preferences to optimize their offerings throughout the year.

Questions they might be considering include:

- What types of candies are preferred nationally, and how might that translate to purchase priorities on campus?
- What is the importance of focusing on candy sales versus general snack sales, to capture possible student interest for candy versus other snacks?
- What are differences between USA preferences versus global preferences to consider for our international students?

We encourage you to generate your own questions and discuss them, as sometimes the data we are given does not meet specific questions suggested. In the case of this example, dining services may not know the right questions to ask based on the data they have provided you.

Your Mission: As a participant, you are invited to dive into the world of candy sales data and create a compelling data story that addresses the needs of CMU leadership. Your challenge is to identify key trends, correlations, and preferences that could help CMU leadership make informed decisions about candy sales and 'preferences'.

Your task involves:

1. **Defining a Data Story:** Identify and develop a data story that aligns with the goals of CMU Dining Services. Your story should focus on trends and correlations in candy sales that could influence their decision-making.
2. **Selecting Key Variables:** Choose the variables that are critical to building a strong and relevant data story. Consider factors such as candy types, sales patterns, time of purchase, and student demographics.
3. **Visualizing Insights:** Conduct a basic analysis of the data and present your findings in a visually engaging manner. Use graphs, charts, and other visual tools to highlight the most important insights.
4. **Creating a Dashboard:** Integrate your visualizations and story elements into an interactive dashboard. This dashboard should be user-friendly and provide a clear narrative that guides Dining Services through your findings.
5. **Final Takeaway:** Conclude your work with a key takeaway or recommendation for a CMU department (e.g, Dining Services, Health Promotions, Residential Education, SLICE, etc.), summarizing how they can use your insights to better meet student needs.