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## Exercise: Visualizing Sales Data in Looker Studio

### Objectives

- Craft SQL queries to gather sales data by state/province and analyze monthly sales trends.
- Utilize Looker Studio to create visual representations of this data.

### Instructions

#### Part 1: SQL Query for State/Province Sales Data

Write a SQL query to calculate the total sales data by state/province within the United States, including the subtotal, taxes, and freight charges.

#### Query Skeleton

##### SELECT

```
-- Placeholder for the state/province column (replace with actual column  
-- name)  
SUM(CAST([SUBTOTAL_COLUMN] AS FLOAT64)) AS total_subtotal,  
-- Additional placeholders for tax, freight, and total sales (replace with  
-- actual column names and calculations)
```

##### FROM

```
`adventureworks`.`SALES_TABLE` AS soh  
-- Placeholder for the JOIN statement (replace with the actual JOIN clause)  
-- Placeholder for the WHERE clause to filter for 'United States'  
-- Placeholder for the GROUP BY clause (replace with actual column name)
```

**Concepts to Learn:**

- **CAST:** Sometimes data is stored as text (strings) even though it represents numbers (like money). CAST is used to change the data into a number so that you can perform calculations on it.
- **SUM:** This is an aggregation function that adds up all the values in a column, giving you a total.
- **INNER JOIN:** This combines rows from two tables based on a related column between them, in this case, matching address IDs with sales orders.
- **WHERE:** This clause filters the data to return only the rows that meet certain criteria, like orders from 'United States'.
- **GROUP BY:** This is used when you're using aggregation functions like SUM, to specify which columns to summarize data by, such as by each state/province.

#### Part 2: SQL Query for Monthly Sales Trend Analysis

Construct a query to determine the sales trends over time, broken down by month and year.

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## Query Skeleton

### SELECT

```
EXTRACT(YEAR FROM [ORDER_DATE_COLUMN]) AS order_year,  
EXTRACT(MONTH FROM [ORDER_DATE_COLUMN]) AS order_month,  
-- Placeholder for the SUM function to aggregate monthly sales (replace  
  ↳ with actual column names and calculations)
```

### FROM

```
`adventureworks`.`SALES_TABLE`  
-- Placeholder for the GROUP BY clause (replace with actual column names)  
-- Placeholder for the ORDER BY clause (replace with actual column names)
```

**Concepts to Learn:** - **EXTRACT:** This function is used to get a specific part of a date, such as the year or month, from a date column. - **ORDER BY:** This arranges your data in a particular order, typically chronological for date fields.

## Part 3: Visualizing Results in Looker Studio

After running your queries in BigQuery, use Looker Studio to visualize the data and draw insights.

1. **Run Query:** Execute your queries in BigQuery to verify they produce the correct results.
2. **Looker Studio Integration:** Directly from BigQuery, navigate to “Explore Data” and select “Explore with Looker Studio” to send your data to Looker Studio for visualization.

**Working with Looker Studio:** - **Chart Selection:** In Looker Studio, choose the appropriate chart types from the menu to best represent your data, such as Geo Maps or Line Charts. - **Dimensions and Metrics:** Use dimensions to categorize your data (like dates or categories) and metrics to measure them (like sales totals). - **Chart Customization:** Customize your charts with various styling options to make your data clear and impactful.

## Deliverables

- **Complete the SQL queries by replacing placeholders with correct SQL statements and column names.**
- **In Looker Studio, create a Geo Map chart to visualize sales by state/province and a Line Chart to visualize the monthly sales trend.**

