

The Hidden Paw's First 50 Puzzles

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Introduction

Puzzles are in every nation's cultural lore. They move around by word of mouth and are transmitted from generation to generation. Some puzzles are known to be centuries old. The puzzles in this book have been collected throughout the years. It become almost impossible to credit the creators of these puzzles. Even puzzle books with impressive collections often reference other books without specifying which puzzle came from which book.

No attempt was made to take credit for creating any of these puzzles. I wish I did create them. Creating a puzzle is a much more impressive task than solving them. It is therefore with all sincerity that I credit these "missing" (but brilliant) authors hoping that if they do find a puzzle that strictly belongs to them, they would write me and I would happily credit them.

On the other hand, I have included a bibliography of books that contain a wealth of puzzles everyone should enjoy. How can one not bow in deference to Sam Lloyd, Martin Gardiner and the Moscow Puzzles? ([Click Here](#) to go to the Bibliography).

As for our mascot, the Hidden Paw is one of the names T. S. Eliot gave to Macavity the Mystery Cat in his book *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*. Macavity was a puzzling cat. He drove Scotland Yard mad with puzzle solving frenzy. I hope you hear him purring as you solve these puzzles.

Don't forget that another set of 50 puzzles follows in *The Hidden Paw's Second 50 Puzzles*. This and other books are presented at www.thehiddenpaw.com.

Akram Najjar
July 2004

Puzzle

- 1 The Weight of the Fish
- 2 Slide Coins into an 8 Point Star
- 3 Cross Numbers 1
- 4 Connect the 9 Dots
- 5 Cut a Painted Cube into 27 Sub-Cubes
- 6 How Far apart are the 2 Boats?
- 7 Work out the Football Scores
- 8 Who are the Men in the Portraits?
- 9 The Truthians and the Falsians
- 10 The Sign Maker's Task
- 11 Link the 6 Chains
- 12 The Bookworm
- 13 The Trains that Squashed the Fly
- 14 The Intelligent Woman's Choice
- 15 Arrange 6 Coins
- 16 How Many Matches in a Tournament?
- 17 Where in the World?
- 18 Fry 3 Steaks
- 19 4 Dimes and 4 Nickels
- 20 Distribute Milk into 3 Cans
- 21 The Mislabeled Gifts
- 22 The Unfair Visitation
- 23 The Fraudulent Nail Factory
- 24 The Two Sand Clocks
- 25 The Seller of Half Eggs

Puzzle

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- 27 A Puzzle with Match Sticks
- 28 Score 100 with 5 Arrows
- 29 The Speed on the Return Trip
- 30 The Missing \$1
- 31 Refuel the Fighter Planes
- 32 Letters in Pigeon Holes
- 33 The Loss of the Shopkeeper
- 34 The Cat and Dog Race
- 35 The Wrong Dream
- 36 Cross Numbers 2
- 37 The Case of the Mixed up Socks
- 38 Magic Squares
- 39 The Lady Who Paid with Gold Links
- 40 The Donkey who Complained
- 41 Cut a Cake into 8 Equal Pieces
- 42 Color the 16 Squares
- 43 The Generous Hunters
- 44 The 2 Ferry Boats
- 45 Simple Puzzles
- 46 Three Types of Fowl
- 47 One Coin out of 9 is Fraudulent
- 48 The Colorful Ladies
- 49 The Cost of the Milk Bottle
- 50 3 Gold and 2 Silver Coins



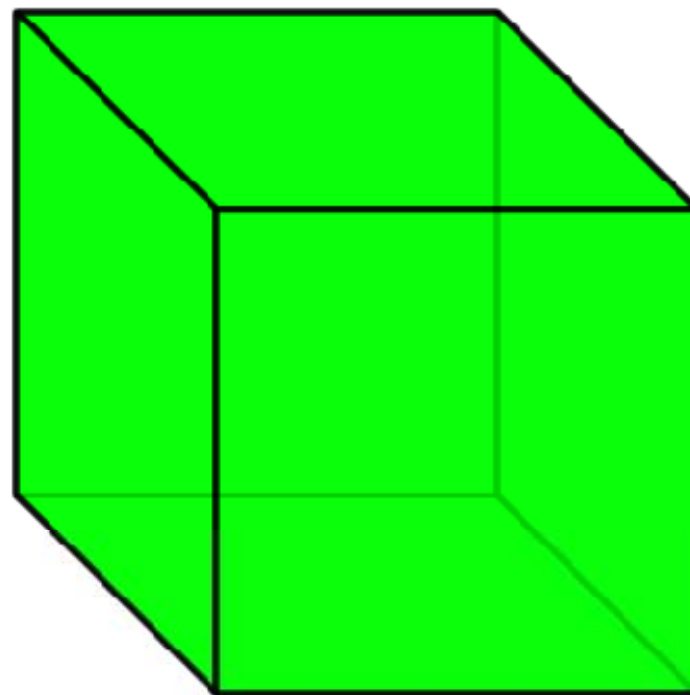
To get to a puzzle, click on its number or title

Puzzle 5

Cut the Painted Cube in 27 Sub-Cubes

A wooden cube is painted green, on all its faces. It is then cut up into 27 equal but smaller cubes.

- 1) How many of the small cubes will be painted green on all sides?
- 2) How many will be painted on 3 sides only?
- 3) How many will be painted on 2 sides only?
- 4) How many on 1 side?
- 5) And how many on none?



Puzzle 9

The Truthians and the Falsians

I visited an island where two tribes lived. The Falsians lied all the time and the Truthians always told the truth. I went to bathe in the sun one day and laid down next to three inhabitants.

I asked the first one which tribe he came from. He said something in a low voice that I could not hear.

The second one immediately reported: "He said he was a Falsian".

The third one then said to the second: "You are a liar".

What tribe did the third inhabitant come from?

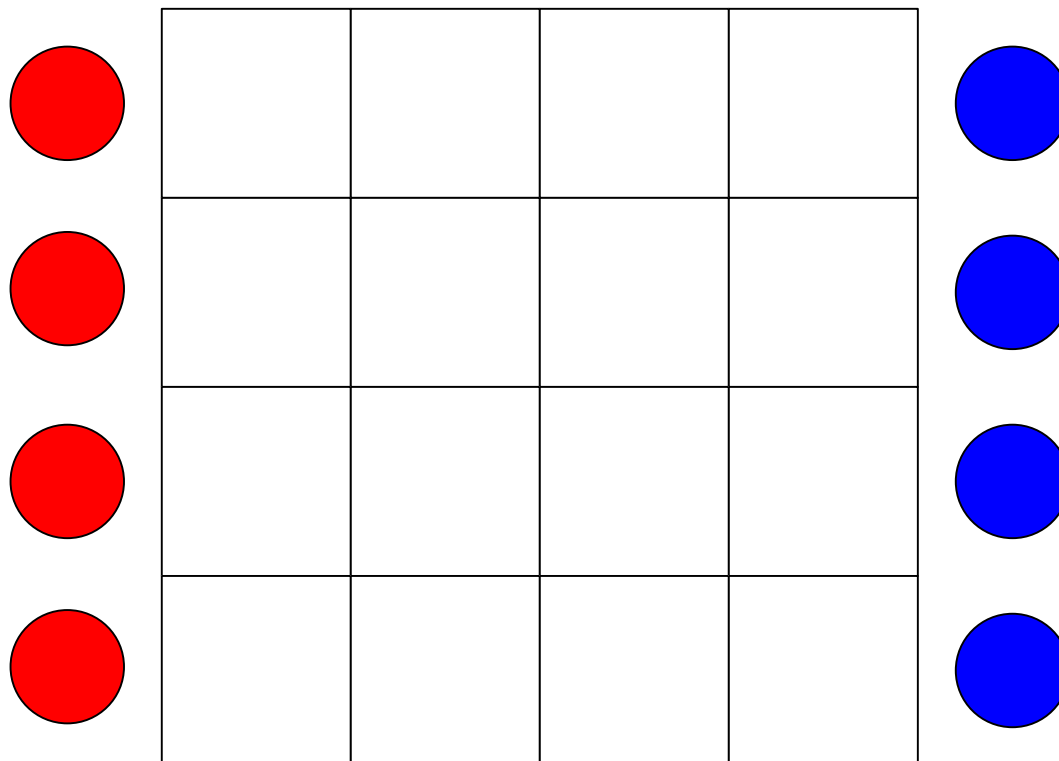


Puzzle 19

4 Dimes and 4 Nickels

You have four dimes on the left and four nickels on the right.

Can you place them on the 4 x 4 board so that no two coins of the same denomination be in the same row, or in the same column or on the same diagonal.



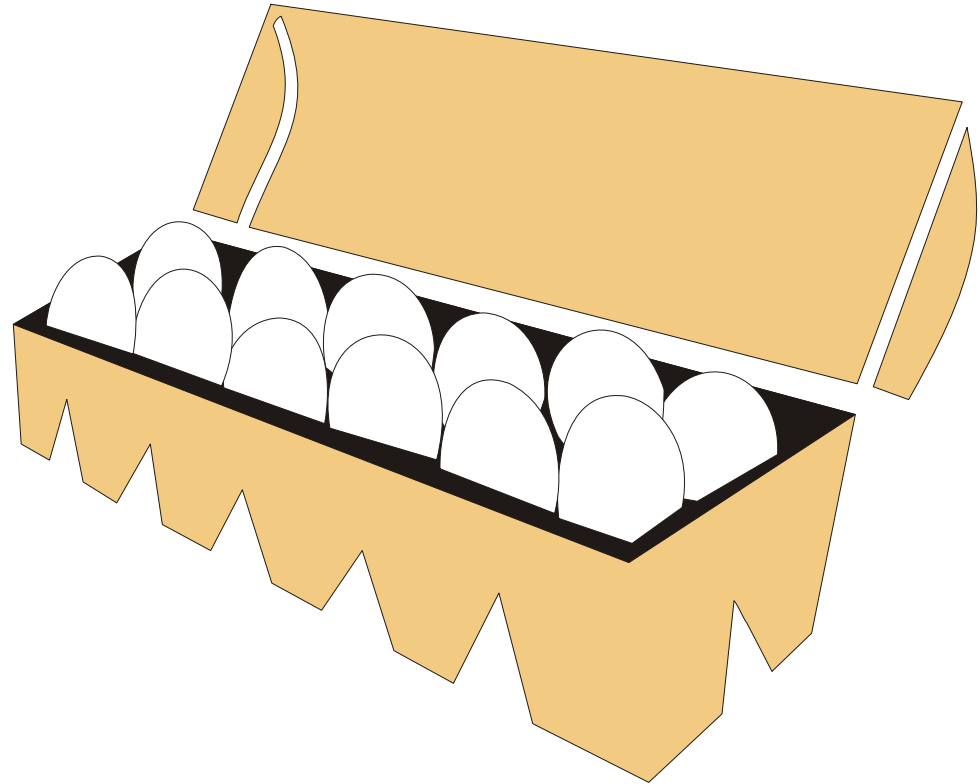
Puzzle 25

The Seller of Half Eggs

An egg seller came back home quite pleased with himself. He told his wife:

“I have run out of stocks in the most unusual way. A man came and said to me: I want to buy half your eggs and half an egg. I sold him what he wanted. Another man came and said the same thing. I sold him what he wanted. A third man came along and asked for the same thing. I sold him what he wanted and completely ran out of eggs.

How many eggs did the egg seller start with before the first buyer came?



Puzzle 31

Refuel the Fighter Planes

During peace times, pilots train in logistics. One of their exercises is to devise a method for sending one airplane around the world and ensuring that it returns to the base from the other side.

The base has a large supply of fuel. The tank of each airplane can hold enough to take it halfway around the world. Airplanes can refuel from each other in mid air and waste no time doing that.

What is the minimum number of airplanes needed to supply one airplane so that it could go around the world with the condition that all airplanes return to the base safely?

