



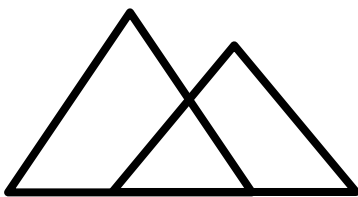
Gordon Burgin's Puzzles

July 2026 Solutions

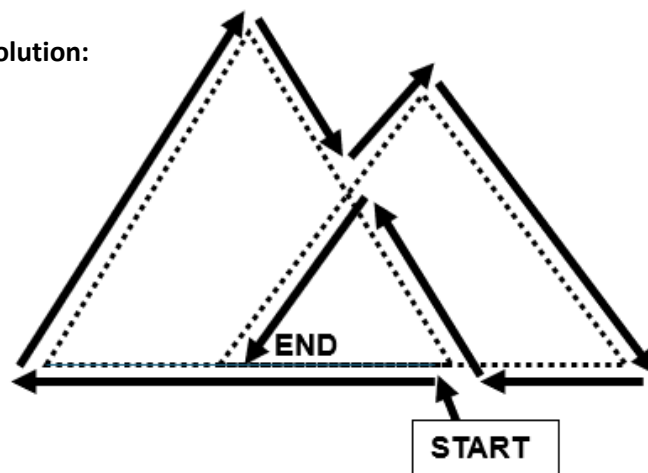
Puzzle One

Can you trace the following shape without lifting your pencil off the page or crossing a pencil line or using the same segment twice?

Note: Show your trace clearly from START to END, and there can be more than one valid starting point.



Solution:



Puzzle Two

300 exercise books are arranged into 3 piles. The first pile has 10 more books than the second pile. The second pile has twice the number of books as the third pile. How many books are there in the third pile?

Solution:

Let x = the number of books in pile #1.

Then, #1 pile = x ; #2 pile = $(x + 10)$ and #3 pile = $(x + 10)/2$

Their sum = $x + (x + 10) + (x + 10)/2 = 300$

Multiplying by 2: $2x + 2(x + 10) + 2(x + 10)/2 = 2 * 300$

Then, $2x + 2x + 20 + x + 10 = 600$ or $5x = 600 - 30 = 570$, $5x = 570$, $x = 114$

Therefore, #3 pile = $(x + 10)/2 = (114 + 10)/2 = 124/2 = 62$ books (Answer)

Check: #1 + #2 + #3 = $114 + 124 + 62 = 300$ books



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Puzzle Three

A true classic puzzle: If one and a half hens lay one and a half eggs in one and a half days, how many eggs does one hen lay?

Solution:

Then, Hens = 1.5 hens

Days = 1.5 days

Eggs = 1.5 eggs

We can use all hens' egg production rate ('r') as an average and constant rate measured in eggs in one day for one hen.

Therefore, hens x days x r = eggs

$$1.5 \times 1.5 \times r = 1.5$$

$$2.25 r = 1.5 \text{ or}$$

$$r = 1.50 / 2.25 = 2/3$$

One hen lays 2/3 of an egg in 1 day or 2 eggs every 3 days.

Check = $2/3 + 2/3 + 2/3 = 6/3 = 2$ eggs every 3 days