

Transforming Toothpicks: Transform One Configuration to Another!

By Grace Point

Level: All Grades

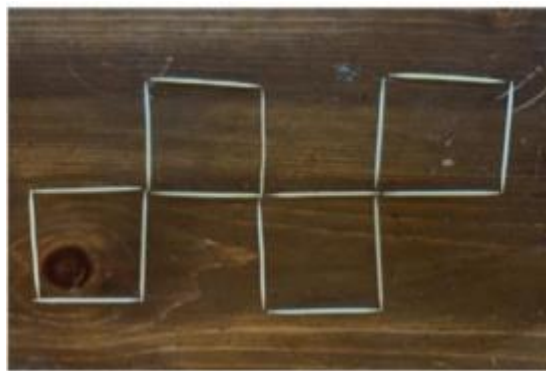
Concepts: Problem Solving, Spatial Relations

Materials: 16 Toothpicks/Matches/Popsicle sticks

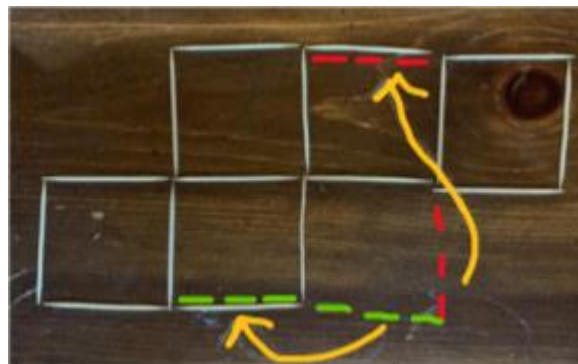
Directions: configure 16 toothpicks on a table in the shape of 4 staggered squares where one corner of each square is touching another.

The challenge: Move only 2 sticks to create 5 squares.

The catch: there cannot be any sticks "poking out," all sticks must be used to complete the 5 new squares.



Solution: Move the farthest toothpick on the bottom row to the top middle space; the bottom farthest toothpick to the left to create adjacent square.



YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iR0LTiuj6FA>