

PUZZLERS

Photocopy this page to use in class. All puzzles on this page are from <http://brainden.com/crossing-river.htm>.



FOUNDATION FAMILY

Parents with two children - a son and a daughter - came to a wide river. There was no bridge there. The only way to get to the other side was to ask a fisherman if he could lend them his boat. However, the boat could carry only one adult or two children.

How does the family get to the other side and return the boat to the fisherman?



YEARS 1 AND 2 SHE-GOAT, WOLF AND CABBAGE

A farmer returns from the market, where he bought a she-goat, a cabbage and a wolf (what a crazy market :-). On the way home he must cross a river. His boat is small and won't fit more than one of his purchases. He cannot leave the she-goat alone with the cabbage (because the she-goat would eat it), nor he can leave the she-goat alone with the wolf (because the she-goat would be eaten).

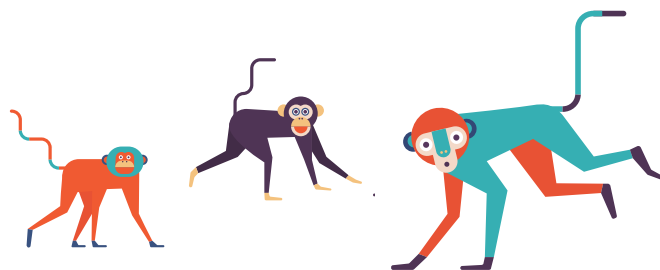
How can the farmer get everything on the other side in this river crossing puzzle?



YEARS 3 AND 4 DARKNESS PHOBIA

One family wants to get through a tunnel. Dad can make it in one minute, mama in two minutes, son in four and daughter in five minutes. Unfortunately, not more than two persons can go through the narrow tunnel at one time, moving at the speed of the slower one.

Can they all make it to the other side if they have a torch that lasts only 12 minutes and they are afraid of the dark?



YEARS 5 AND 6 HUMANS AND MONKEYS

Three humans, one big monkey and two small monkeys are to cross a river:

- Only humans and the big monkey can row the boat.
- At all times, the number of humans on either side of the river must be greater or equal to the number of monkeys on that side. (Or else the humans will be eaten by the monkeys!)
- The boat only has room for two (monkeys or humans).
- Monkeys can jump out of the boat when it's banked.