

How can I use this with my children?

Explore this puzzle together. Read the scenario and use the cut-outs of each character or item to help you work out how the farmer can cross the river safely.

How does this help my children's learning?

Lateral thinking is a creative way of solving problems by taking different approaches. This puzzle is about trial and error. Try to consider each character's needs in order to find a solution.

Ideas for further learning:

Why not build a model to go with this puzzle? Your child could create a playdough sculpture of the scene and use the cut-outs to play out the scenario.



Lateral Thinking: The River Puzzle

Have you got your problem-solving hat on? Read the scenario below. Then use scissors to carefully cut out the characters and items in order to work out how the farmer can cross the river safely.

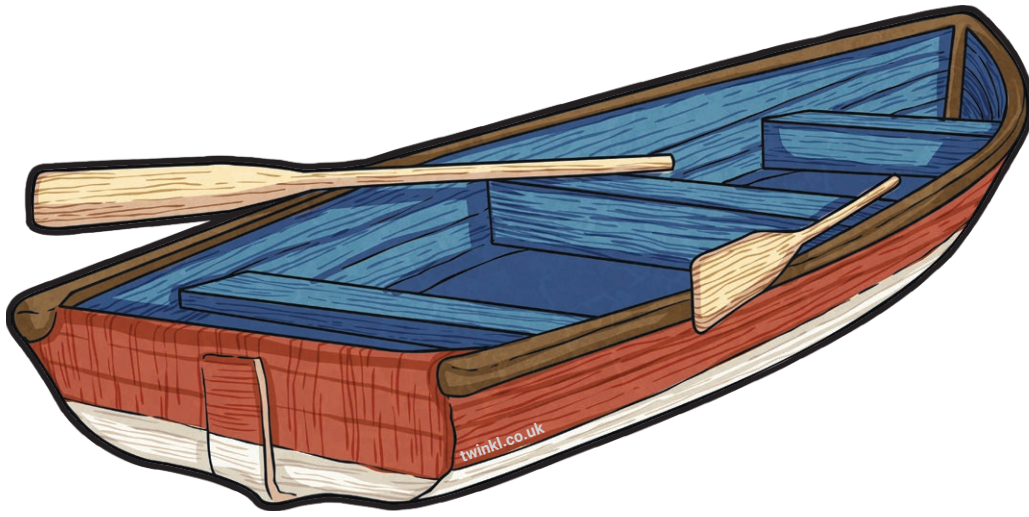
One day, a farmer travels in a boat from side A of a river (where his farm is) to side B of the river (where the market is). At the market, the farmer buys a fox, a chicken and a bag of corn. When the farmer returns to the boat, he realises he has a problem.

- He can only take one item in the boat at a time.
- He cannot leave the fox alone with the chicken because the fox would eat the chicken.
- He cannot leave the chicken alone with the corn because the chicken would eat the corn.

Can you work out how the farmer can cross from side B of the river back to side A and still keep all his items safe?

How many trips across the river will it take to get everything safely to side A?





We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. This resource refers to the use of scissors. You are responsible for the safe use of these resources including following any manufacturer's instructions or guidance. We are not responsible for the health and safety of your group or environment and so, insofar as it is possible under the law, we cannot accept liability for any loss suffered by anyone due to the use of this resource.



side A

side B

Lateral Thinking: The River Puzzle - **Solution**

Journey 1: The farmer takes the chicken from side B to side A (leaving the fox and corn on side B).

Journey 2: The farmer travels back to side B of the river alone.

Journey 3: The farmer takes the fox from side B to side A (leaving the corn alone).

Journey 4: The farmer leaves the fox on side A but takes the chicken back to side B (so it isn't left alone with the fox).

Journey 5: The farmer swaps the chicken for the corn on side B and brings the corn across to side A.

Journey 6: The farmer travels back to side B alone (the fox and corn are on side A and the chicken is on side B).

Journey 7: The farmer brings the chicken across the river to side A. He now has all three items on the correct side of the river.

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