

Four Stacks after Martin Gardner

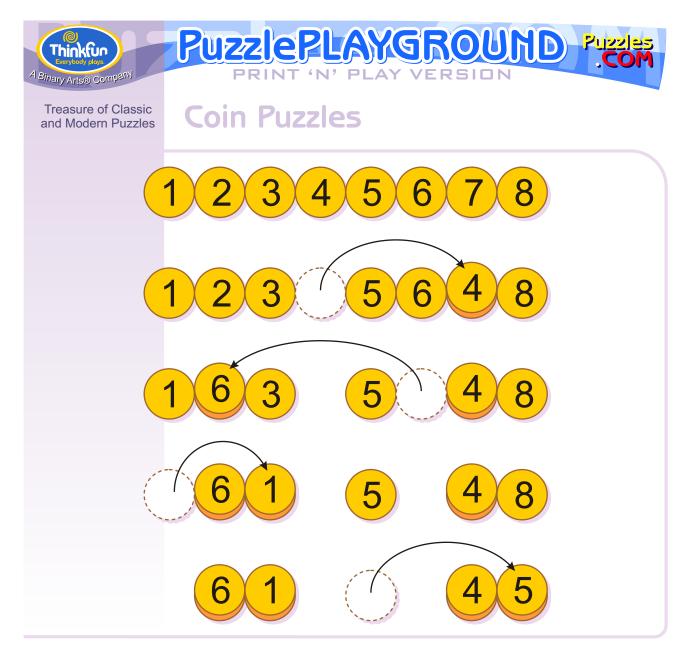
Place eight coins in a row as shown in the illustration. The object is to make from all the coins four stacks of two coins each and it should be done in four moves only.

Every move consists of jumping of a coin over any two coins (no matter lying flat or in a stack) in one direction, and stopping on the top of the next coin.

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Four Stacks (solution)

If we number the coins from left to right as shown (1 through 8) then one of the possible solutions can be as follows:

Step 1: 4 on 7; Step 2: 6 on 2; Step 3: 1 on 3; Step 4: 5 on 8.

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