The Towers of Hanoi

Puzzles like this are great for developing mathematical logic skills, as well as training us to be resilient if a solution proves tricky to find…!

Learn how to play the game…

- This is an ancient mathematical puzzle.

- There are three towers and a number of discs.

- The aim is to move all the discs from the left tower to the right tower, **but** you can only move one disc at a time and you must never put a bigger disc on top of a smaller disc.

- Here's how it could look with just two discs.

- This took 3 moves.

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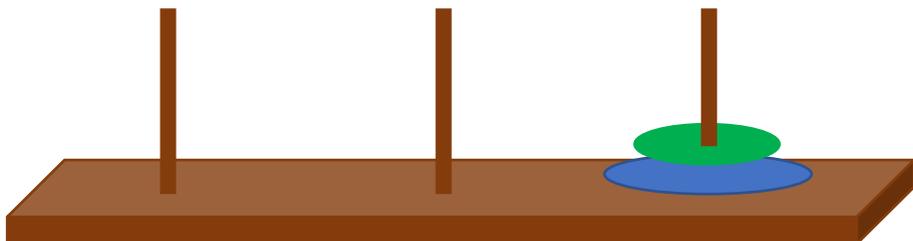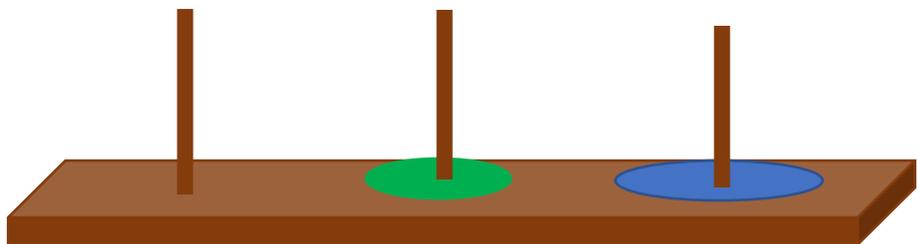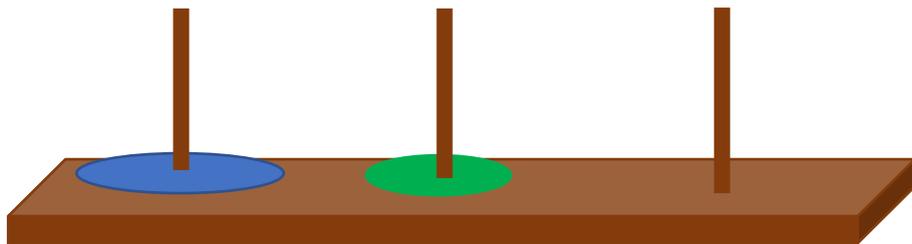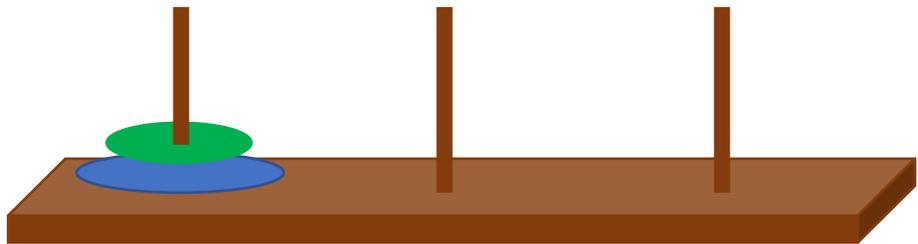
And now the challenge…

- Now it's your turn. Have a go at moving 3 discs from the left tower to the right tower at https://www.mathsisfun.com/games/towerofhanoi.html.
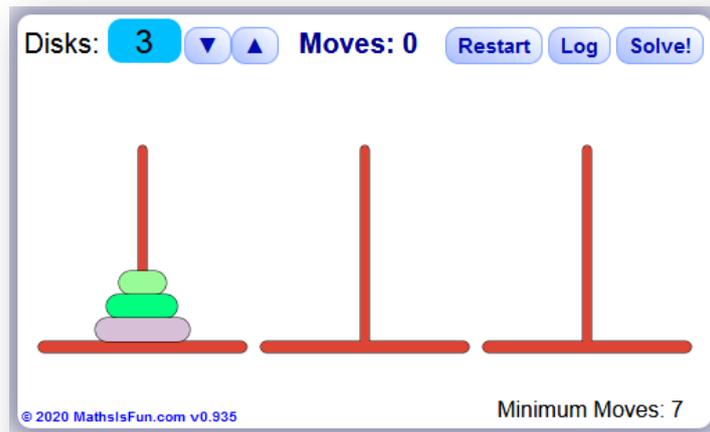
- The minimum number of moves possible is 7, but don't worry about that to begin with. Just learn from playing the game at least 4 times. Click on 'restart' to start again each time. If you can see your attempt is not going to work, just click 'restart' to start again. Each time you are learning!

- After you've played a few times, try to plan ahead a little.

- What have you found about where it's best to place the smallest disc first?

- What's your smallest number of moves so far? Can you improve on that?

Ready for a super challenge?!

- If you've mastered solving the puzzle with 3 discs, click on the up arrow to choose 4 discs. Be warned, this is quite a bit harder!

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