



MATCHSTICK CHALLENGES



CHALLENGE

Engaging in tricky things helps us to grow, learn and, connect with others.

Activity overview

Solve brain teasers, equations and riddles

Equipment required

A box of matches (or alternative items)

Time required

5 – 60 mins

Matchstick puzzles are derived from a time when candles and gas lighting meant that almost everyone carried a small box of matches with them. These puzzles are designed for you to complete equations, move matchsticks to solve brain teasers or involve counting squares to solve the riddles.

You can use the following items instead of matchsticks:

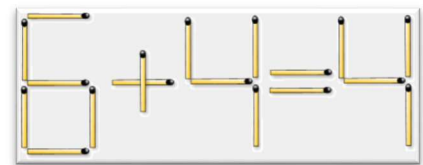
- Sticks
- Toothpicks
- Pencils/pens
- Crayons
- Cutlery

Recreate these images from your items and then solve the problem.

Some problems have multiple possible answers, so share what you have found with others and see what you can come up with together.

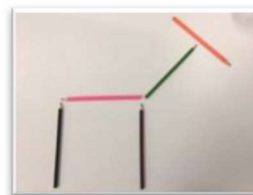
1. Move One Matchstick

Can you make these two equations true by moving just **ONE** matchstick? (Note: Each one can be done in at least three ways.)



2. Turn the donkey

Can you turn the donkey by moving just **ONE** matchstick?



3. A tricky one

Can you add just one matchstick to make this equation true?



Sources: <https://gpuzzles.com/brain-questions/matchsticks/>
http://www.learning-tree.org.uk/stickpuzzles/stick_puzzles.htm