

Mental Exercise

Figure It Out

By David Beagan

Time on Earth

In an episode of Twilight Zone a man taken prisoner by Aliens and whisked away to outer space. The man asks what time it is? The Aliens respond that there is no time in space. The man says just tell me what time it is on Earth. And the Alien responds that it is 12:00 noon on earth. What is the fallacy here?

Win, Place, Show

You need to find the three fastest horses out of a total of 25 horses. You don't have a stopwatch and so must determine horses speed by racing them. Assume that each time a horse races, it always runs at a consistent speed. The track for racing the horses allows five horses to race at a time. How many races does it take to find the three fastest horses?

Roman Math

Take sixteen matchsticks and form the calculation:

$$I + II + III + IIII$$

If you add this up, one plus two plus three plus four, it totals ten. Can you move just one matchstick, again using all sixteen matchsticks and make a calculation that equals four?

Tri-Bond

What is it that is common about these three things:

Tom-Tom
Bongo
Snare

No Such Animal?

I heard the late Paul Harvey on one of his radio broadcasts mention the absurdity of someone saying they had a milking shorthorn bull. He asked how can a bull give milk? But a dairy farmer called and Mr. Harvey had to admit the laugh was on him, there is a milking shorthorn bull. Why?

Twisted Time

Two sisters are talking to one another on the phone. Both are in the U.S., one sister in an East Coast State, the other in a West Coast State. One

sister asks what time it is. The other sister says, "That's funny; it's the same time here." Both their clocks are working perfectly set correctly for their time zones. How is this possible?

Answers

Time on Earth

There are 24 time zones on earth. From outer space, any of the time zones could be considered equally valid.

Win, Place, Show

Seven races will do it. First race all the horses, in five races. And then in a champion's race the five winners race to determine the fastest overall. Now the second and third fastest can be determined by one more race by picking the right horses for the seventh race. This race includes the second and third place finishers from both races that the champion raced in. And one more horse for the seventh race. The second place finisher in the champion's race, in his first race had a second place finisher. This horse needs to be in the seventh race too. These five horses race, with first and second in this race being the second and third fastest overall.

Roman Math

$$- I - II + III + IIII$$

Tri-Bond

All three are kinds of drums.

No Such Animal?

Milking Shorthorn is a breed of cattle. This breed has both males and females. So there is a milking shorthorn bull, but the bulls don't give milk.

Twisted Time

One sister lives in the western part of the Florida panhandle (Central Time) and the other sister lives in an eastern portion of Oregon (mountain time). The Florida sister has turned her clock back an hour for Daylight Savings Time, but before the other sister needs to. They share the same time for an hour.