Activity: Peg Solitaire Puzzles

Here is an easy game to make, but a hard one to solve! It’s from a group of puzzles called peg solitaire or brainvita. These games require you to develop a strategy to improve each time you try and solve it. Computer scientists have developed mathematical programs for how to best solve these types of puzzles.

Instructions

1. Select a game board (2 examples shown)
2. Fill in the spaces on the board with tokens, beans or pennies.
3. Leave the center hole open on the cross pattern or any hole on the triangle pattern.
4. To begin, jump one token over the one next to it and on to the empty space. Remove the token you jumped over.
5. Continue jumping on to open spaces until you can do no more jumps.
6. The object is to clear the board of all tokens except for one.

Variations

Choose a different empty starting hole.
Board 1 (leave any spot blank to start)
Board 2 (leave the center spot empty)