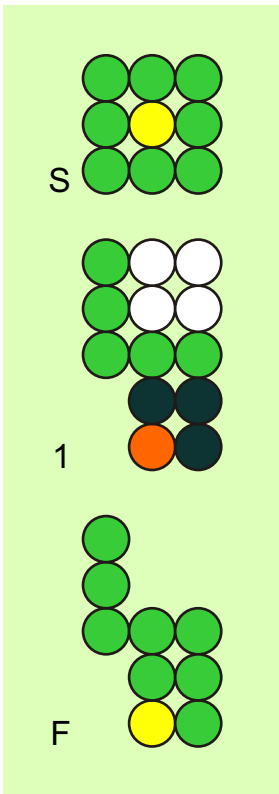
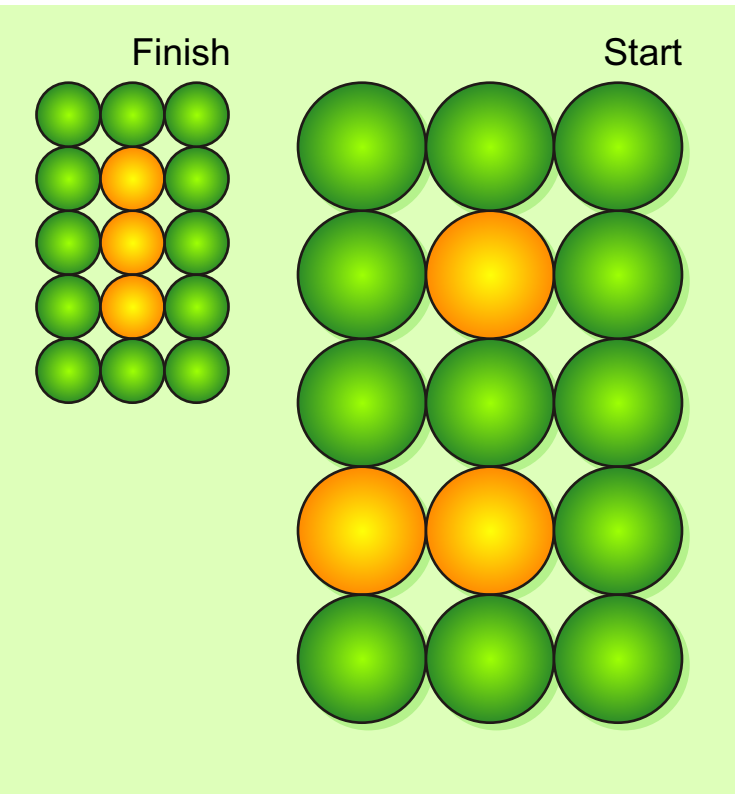
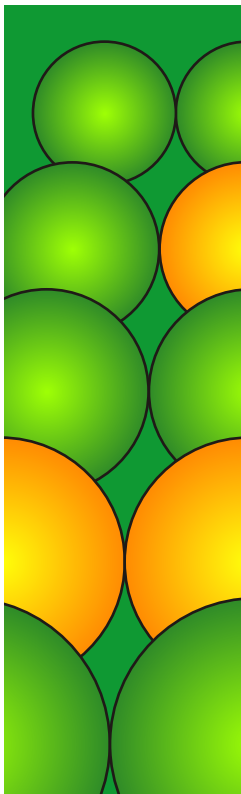


Puzzle Vacations

Change the Nine



The Object

Twelve dark and three light balls are arranged into the digit of Nine as shown in the "Start" position in the center of the illustration above. The object is to change it into the digit of Zero shown in the upper left corner (the "Finish" position) in the minimum number of moves.

A move consists of moving any four balls, which form a small square. You are not allowed to rotate the square while moving it, and may not move any other balls. In a new position the square must touch at least one other ball. Lifting of balls is not allowed. An example of such a move is shown in the right column above.

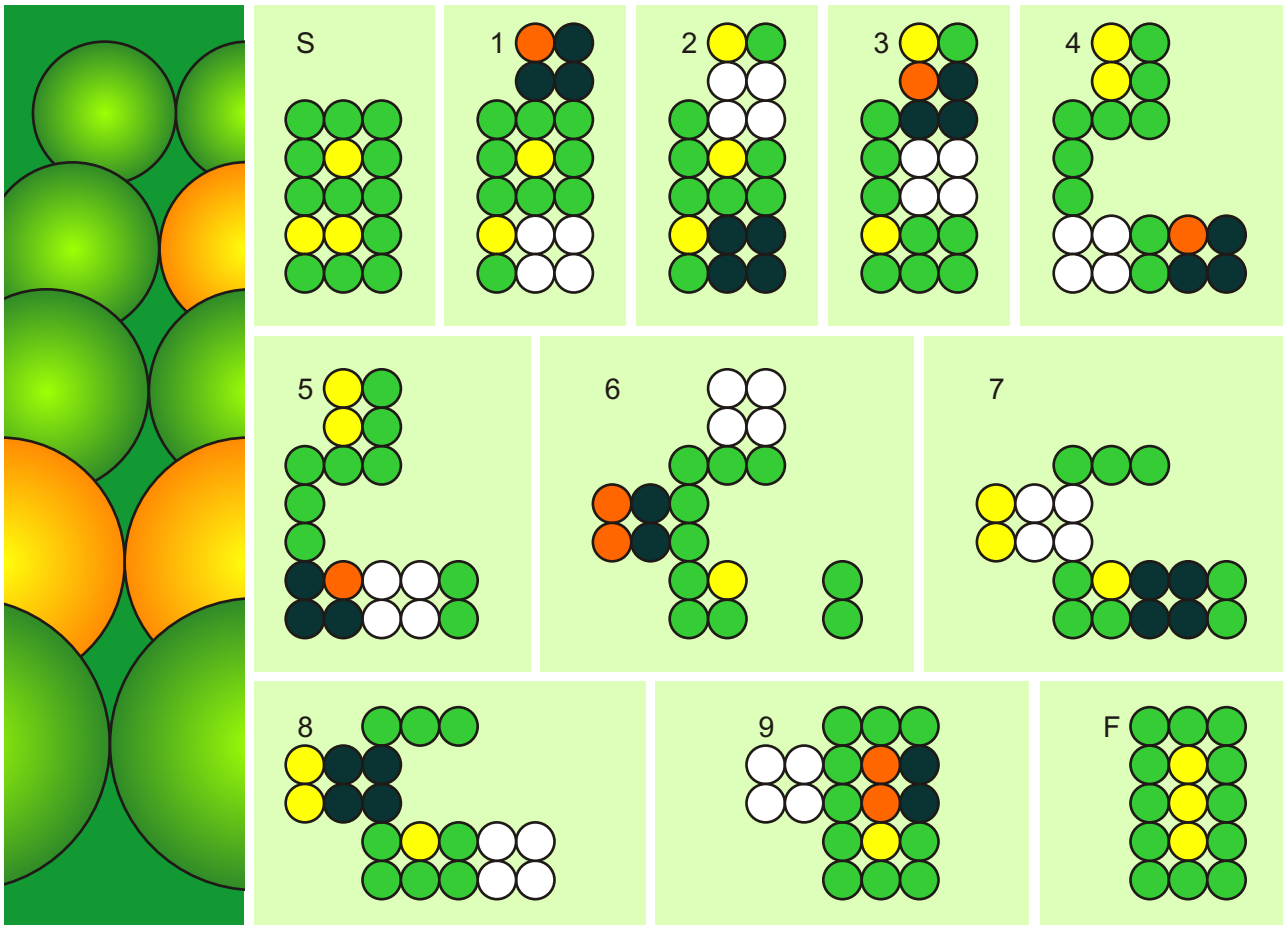
Coins of two different colors can be used successfully instead of balls.

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Puzzle Vacations

Change the Nine



Solution

The solution of 9 moves is shown in the illustration.

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