

Treasure of Classic
and Modern Puzzles

Puzzles with Numbers



Cube Dates

after Martin Gardner

On the unusual desk calendar shown in the illustration a day is indicated simply by arranging the two cubes so that their front faces give the date. The face of each cube bears a single digit, 0 through 9, and one can arrange the cubes so that their front faces indicate any date 01, 02, 03... to 31.

Can you determine the four digits that cannot be seen on the left (blue) cube and the three on the right (red) cube?

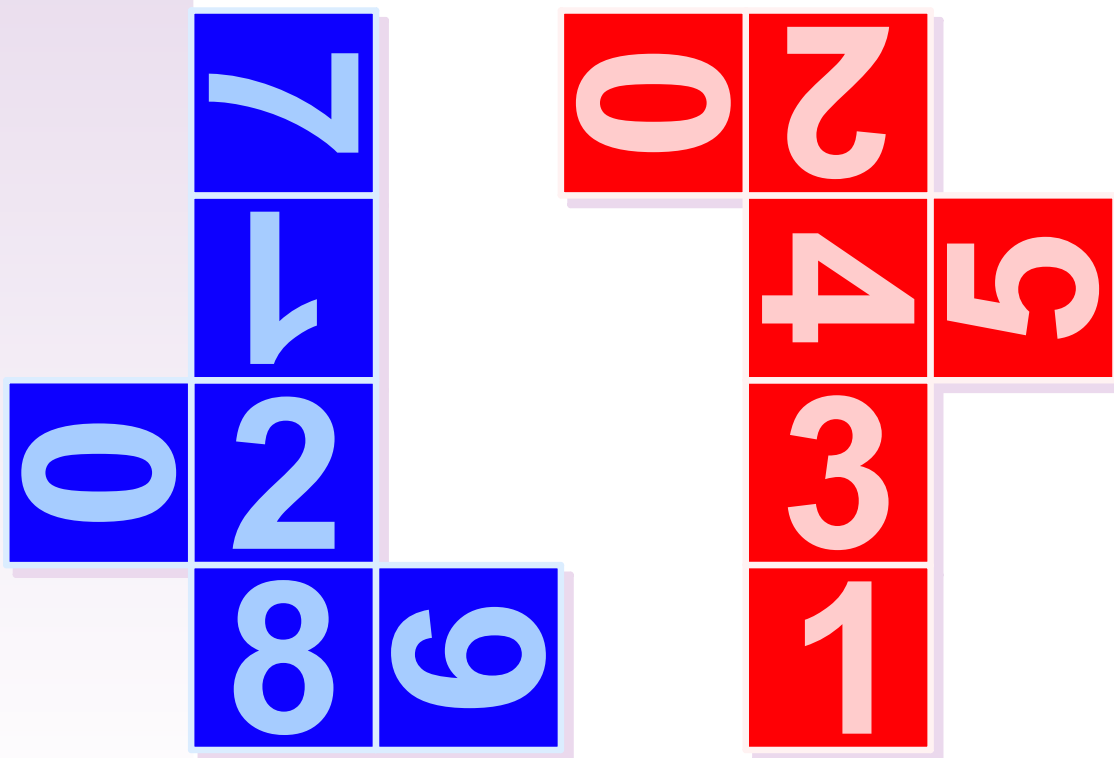
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Cube Dates (solution)

Each cube must bear a 0, 1, and 2. This leaves only six faces for the remaining seven digits, but fortunately the same face can be used for 6 and 9, depending on how the cube is turned. The illustration shows 3, 4, 5 on the right (red) cube, and therefore its hidden faces must be 0, 1, and 2. On the left (blue) cube one can see 1 and 2, and so its hidden faces must be 0, 6 (or 9), 7, and 8.

John S. Singleton from England had patented the two-cube calendar in 1957/8 (British patent number 831572), but allowed the patent to lapse in 1965.

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