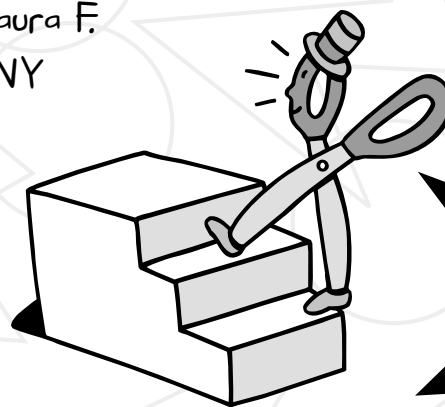




Paper Puzzle

Sent in by Laura F.
of Flushing, NY



Try It
Out!

How can you make two equal rows from eight different paper strips?

What You Need

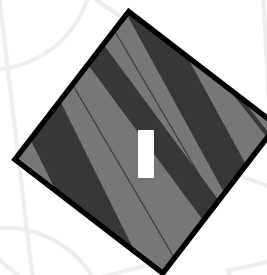
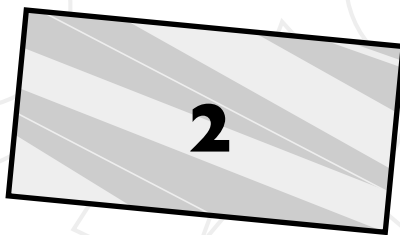
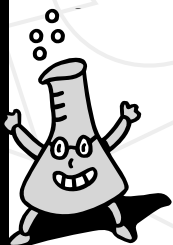
- scissors
- this activity sheet

1 Cut out the numbered strips on this sheet. Each number represents how many **inches** long the strip is.

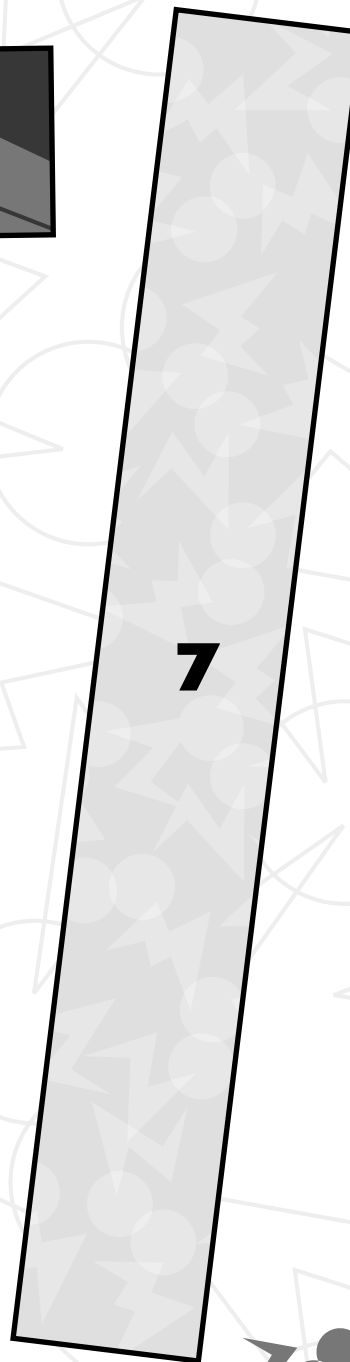
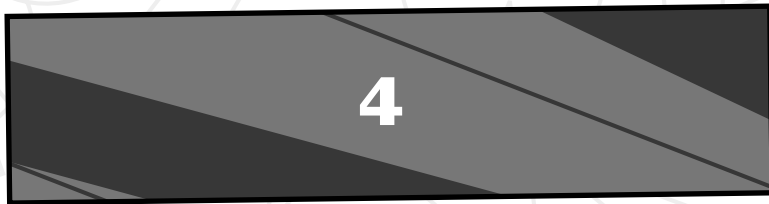
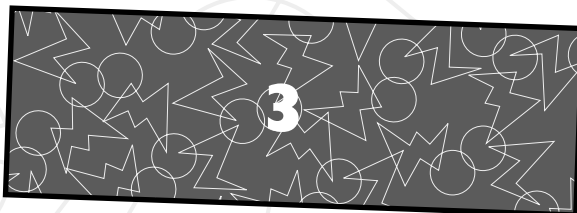
2 Try to arrange all eight strips so that you have **two equal rows**.

Science Scoop

If you put all eight paper strips into one long row and add them together, the **total length** is 36 inches. If you **divide** this long row into two equal rows, you will have two rows that are 18 inches long each. (That's because 36 divided by 2 equals 18). There are lots of ways to **arrange** the strips to make two 18-inch rows. How many ways can you think of? Do you think you can find all the possible solutions?



Now it's time for you to **experiment**. How can you make **three rows** of equal length by using all **eight strips**? How about **four rows**? How can you use all eight strips to make a **staircase** that has only three steps, with each step being one inch shorter than the step below? What other **patterns** can you make? Send your favorite patterns and solutions to ZOOM.



© 2000 WGBH Educational Foundation all rights reserved. ZOOM and the ZOOM words and related indicia are trademarks of the WGBH Educational Foundation. "PBS KIDS" wordmark TM PBS. Used with permission. Funding for ZOOM is provided by the National Science Foundation, public television viewers, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

All submissions become the property of ZOOM and will be eligible for inclusion in all ZOOMmedia. This means that we can share your ideas with other ZOOMers on TV, the Web, in print materials, and in other ZOOMways. So, send it to ZOOM. Thanks!

