



Instructions

One of my snowmen keeps disappearing! Is it melting or just flying away, and which one is it?

Cut out the picture along the straight black lines, to give three rectangular pieces. Then follow the simple algorithm and see the snowman disappear before your eyes.

1. Put the three pieces together in the original positions to make the picture.
2. Count all the snowmen.
3. Swap the position of the top two pieces over so the top and bottom halves of the snowmen line up again
4. Count the snowmen again.

One snowman has disappeared!

Put the pieces back and you will find it reappears.

Even if you don't know how you do it you can make the magic work. You can make the snowman disappear. That is what you need in an algorithm. If you follow the steps exactly, it should work. Always.

That is why we write programs (algorithms written in a programming language) for computers to follow. All a computer can do is follow its program blindly. A computer is just dumb silicon. It can't know what it is doing, but the program still has to work every time.

Why not follow our algorithm for drawing magic jigsaws. Go to www.cs4fn.org/magic and also find more magic algorithms.