

The Bridge

Bridge Problem:

Can you find a way to solve this problem? You may wish to cut out the pictures on the next page so that you can test out your ideas.

One day a woodcutter was walking home through the forest. He was nearly home when he came to a bridge. It was a very old and narrow bridge. The woodcutter had a problem. He had with him his pet duck, his daughter's cat and a sack of rice. He wanted to take them all back home, but he knew he would have to carry each across the bridge as the cat and the duck would be too scared to walk. Because the bridge was so wobbly and narrow, he would only be able to carry them one at a time.

He cannot at any point leave the cat and duck together as the cat will eat the duck.

He cannot at any point leave the duck and the rice together as the duck will eat the rice.

How can he get everything across the bridge?

The woodcutter can take as many journeys as he needs to. He is allowed to carry the animals or the grain back again to the first side of the bridge if needed, but by the end of all his trips, the woodcutter, the animals and the rice must all be on the far side of the bridge.

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