

A Family of Puzzles

By David Beagan

Classic Puzzler

This is a classic. Hopefully, those who have heard it may enjoy it again. A man is holding a picture of someone and while looking at it proclaims, "Brothers and sisters I have none, but this man's father is my father's son." Who is in the picture?

Boys and Girls

The Gardner family is composed of a mother, a father, and sons and daughters. Around the dinner table one day, one of the daughter's says, "did you ever stop to think, I have three times as many brothers as I have sisters?" And one of the sons replies, "Yes but I have the same number of brothers as sisters."

How many sons and daughters are in the Gardner family?

Avian Anatomy

The part of the bird
that is not in the sky,
which can swim in the ocean
and always stay dry.

What is this?

Perfect Crime?

Randy was frequently in trouble. He was brought in for questioning on a robbery. The detective on the case tells him, "We found your finger prints at the crime scene. This will be an open and shut case."

Randy replies, "Perhaps you don't know, I have an identical twin brother, Andy. We share the same DNA. How do you know it is not my twin brother's fingerprints you found there? If this case goes to trial, there is reasonable doubt that those are my fingerprints that you found."

The detective replies, "Well, you and your brother will have to submit to a DNA test to validate your claim."

Randy walked out of the police station a free man. Later the detective called back and told Randy the DNA tests wouldn't be necessary, and just then an officer knocked at the door. The detective explained that they would be arresting Randy and holding him for trial.

What did the detective find out?

River Crossing

In earlier times, it so happened that two brides and their jealous husbands, encounter a river. There is a small boat to get them across the river. The boat can carry just one or two people. The river crossings must be arranged so that no woman is left with a man unless her husband is also present. How many trips does it take to ferry them all across the river?

Cousin Hank

Cousin Hank and Little Hank were born on the same day of the year, but a number of years apart.

At today's birthday celebration, Cousin Hank said, "I haven't been able to attend all of Little Hank's birthday parties, but I remember attending one where my age was exactly seven times as much as Little Hank's age. At another celebration, I was four times older. At another I was three times older. And now today, I am just twice as old as little Hank. Little Hank is catching up to me!" How old is Little Hank today?

Quiet Professor

The son of a professor's father is talking to the father of the professor's son. The professor does not take part in this conversation. How is this possible?

Alpha Beta

In the country of Alpha, the dictatorial government decrees that each couple must have children until they have a boy. Once they have a boy, then they must stop having children.

In the country of Beta, their government decrees that each couple must keep having children until they have one more boy than girl. Then they must stop having children.

Assume that the odds of having a boy or girl is the same with each individual birth. Would either of the strategies employed by Alpha or Beta be expected to result in more boys in the population?

See answers on page 13

Be the change you want to see in the world.

What Are Family Values?

By Niru Prasad

What exactly makes up a strong family with good family values?

A strong family unit creates a safe, positive and supportive place for all family members under one roof. The adults in a strong family are good role models for their children, parents, and grand parents. Some of the important elements of a strong family system are:

- Family cohesion: Cohesion is defined as a feeling of belonging to a group and being nurtured by family members. It is important to know that a family member should develop his own self existence while belonging to a group..
- Flexibility and communication: there should be flexibility among individuals to avoid family arguments and fights. During stressful situations, families should work together to solve problems without blaming or criticizing others. Also, there should be open, frank communication among family members in order to avoid family disputes and crisis.

Another very important factor is the mutual relationship among husband and wife. A few survival tips for a happy married life include:

- Dream a dream – imagine yourself as the best happy married couple and construct a vision of everything you believe your marriage could be.
- Maximize the trust factor, since spouses in a solid relationship have complete faith in each other.
- Learn to handle conflicts and arguments carefully.
- Be healthy, since good health plays a significant role in everyone’s life.

A happy marriage seems to set a pleasant atmosphere in the house for children and help teach them how to make good decisions. Good parenting includes:

- Showing your child love, concern and respect all the time.
- Providing your child a safe place to live and play.
- Listening and paying attention to what your children are telling you.
- Helping your children express their feelings to you.
- Setting up reasonable rules and discipline for them to follow.
- Setting good examples for them and teaching them to be independent and learn to make their decisions.
- Getting them involved with your activities and spending prime time together..

Children of strong families tend to follow the footsteps of their parents who are role models for them – the fruits do not fall too far from the trees.

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Classic Puzzler

The man is holding a picture of his son.

Boys and Girls

The Gardner family has two girls and three boys. Each girl, therefore, has one sister and three brothers. Each boy, however, has two brothers and two sisters.

Avian Anatomy

The bird’s shadow.

Perfect Crime?

A little research by the detective revealed that while identical twins do indeed share the same DNA, they have different finger prints. No two people share the same finger prints.

River Crossing

- | | |
|----|--------------------|
| 1. | --> G1 B1
G2 B2 |
| 2. | <-- B1
G2 B2 |
| 3. | --> G1 B1
B2 G2 |
| 4. | G1 B1
G2 B2 <-- |
| 5. | G1 B1
--> G2 B2 |

Cousin Hank

Little Hank was born six years after Cousin Hank. Little Hank is celebrating his sixth birthday, Cousin Hank his twelfth.

Quiet Professor

The professor is a woman. Her brother is talking to her husband.

Alpha Beta

Interestingly, the population in both countries will NOT tend to create more boys in the general population. In spite of the government’s efforts in either country to manipulate the outcomes, every single individual birth has an even chance of

producing a boy or a girl, and so the populations of male and female tend to the same.