

Mind The GAPP Vol. 58

Genuinely Approachable Pencil Puzzles from the CtC Discord
August 1, 2026 - August 31, 2026

It's August again, which means another genre guessing game! I would write an explanation here, but Jovi already explained it well in the August 1st post. Join us in the Discord next year if you'd like to play along!

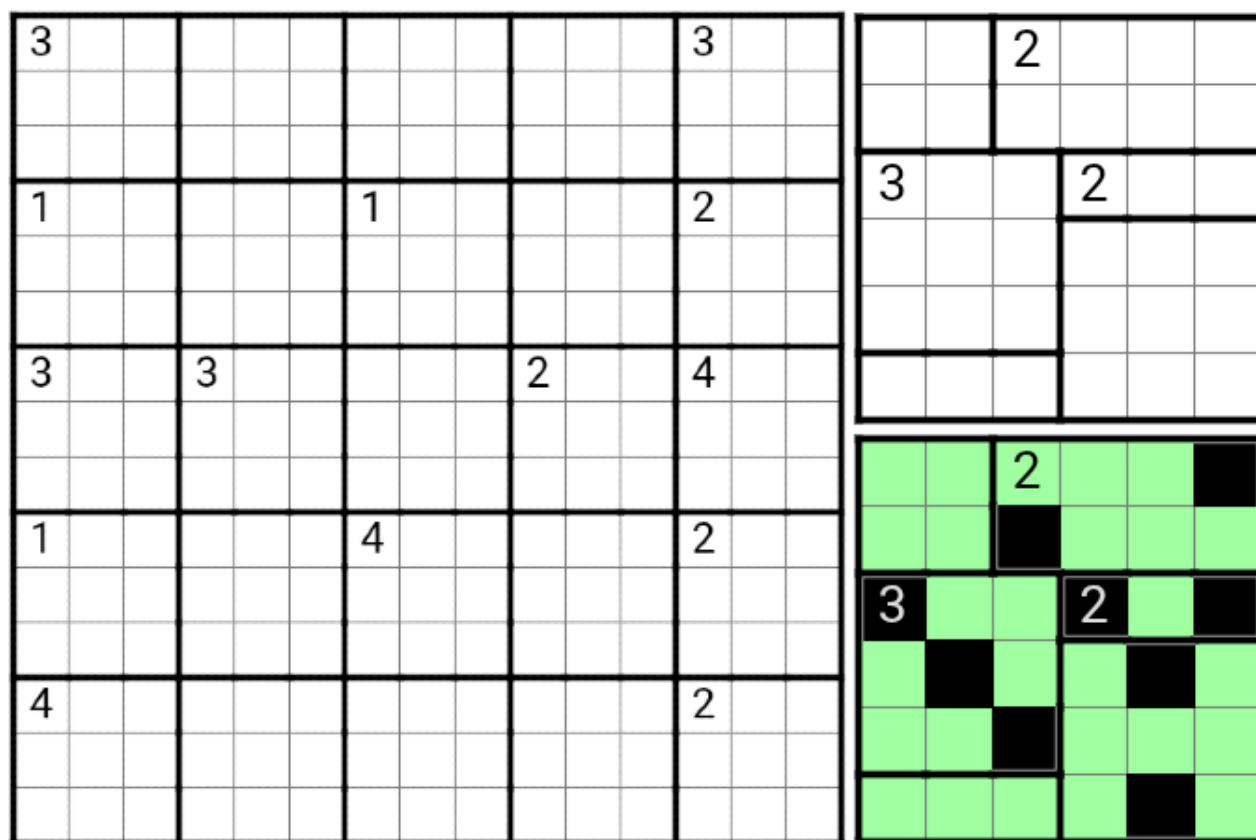
We have three bonus puzzles this month. Enjoy!

August 1, 2026: Ayeheya | jovi_al

Hey everyone! Welcome back to our yearly tradition of 🦦 **Otter August** 🦦! The rules are simple: successfully guess tomorrow's genre and earn a **bonus otter** 🦦 (and a shoutout in the intro)! As with past years, there is some pattern to uncover that will at least narrow it down a lot, if not give you the exact genre. Please put your guesses and any speculation about the pattern in spoiler tags!

Kicking off this month (on *Supersized Saturday*, no less) is an **Ayeheya**! No otters today...

Rules: Shade some cells such that no two shaded cells share an edge and all unshaded cells form one connected network. Numbers within a region indicate how many shaded cells are in that region. A horizontal or vertical line of unshaded cells may not cross more than one region border. The cells within each region must form a 180° rotationally symmetric pattern.



Example (pzprxs): <https://tinyurl.com/2s42ueyh>
Puzzle (pzprxs): <https://tinyurl.com/4m2zvvyzt>

August 2, 2026: Gravel | Freddie Hand

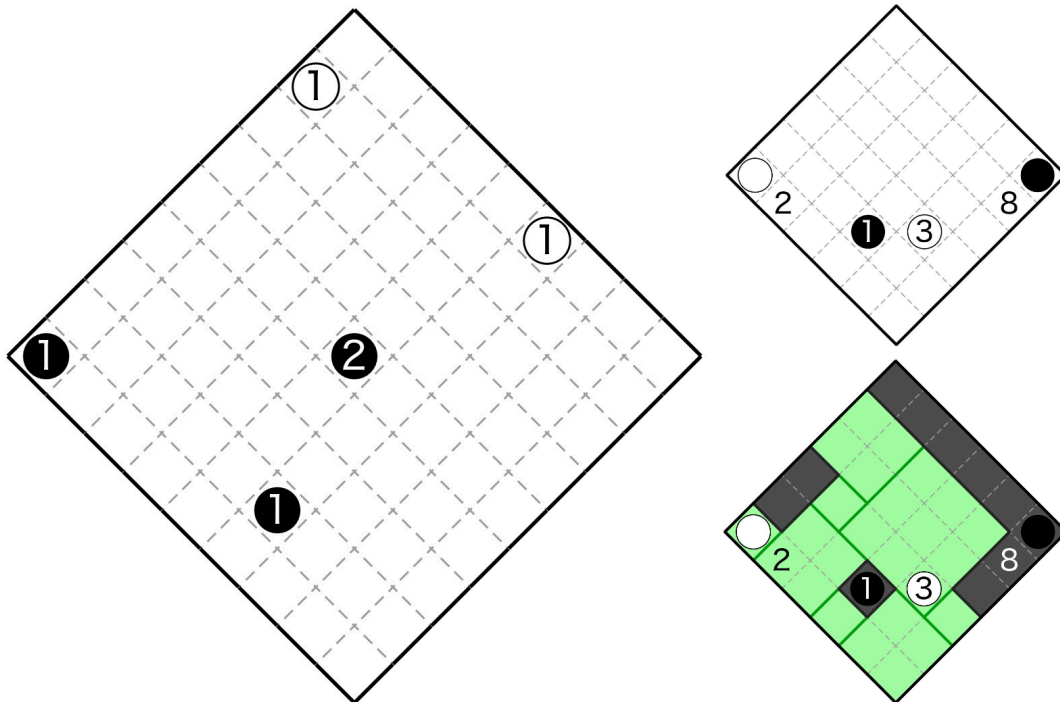
Unfortunately nobody guessed that today's puzzle would be a **Gravel**. Keep going! The fabled first otter 🦦 is still up for grabs.

Gravel is a cool genre invented by Menderbug over 4 years ago but has just now been implemented in pzprxs. Which is great because it doesn't work in Penpa+ at all.

Rules:

- Shade some cells and divide the remaining cells into squares.
- Each unshaded square must touch at least one other square or the edge of the grid on each of its lower sides. (Alternative phrasing: in the final solution, none of the squares can slide or fall, assuming gravity acts downwards)
- Unshaded squares of identical size cannot share an edge.
- Black circles must be shaded, and white circles must be unshaded.
- Number clues inside shaded regions indicate the total area of the region.
- Number clues inside unshaded squares indicate the side length of the square.

Here's a little **GAPP 101** in case you get stuck: (ROT13) na hafunqrq pryy jvgu funqrq pryy orybj vg (rvgure gb gur yrsq be gb gur evtug) pnaabg pbagnva n bar-ol-bar fdhner.



Example (pzprxs): <https://tinyurl.com/4wzuecvb>

Puzzle (pzprxs): <https://tinyurl.com/548f4y3h>

August 3, 2026: Tren (New) | Rook

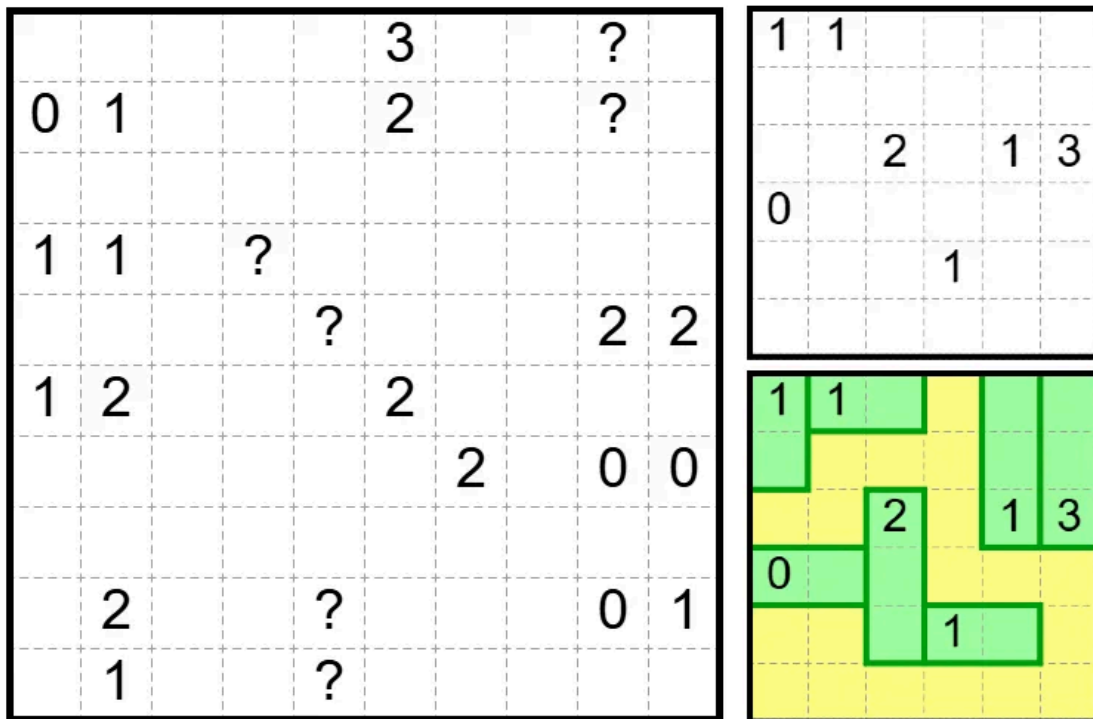
Unfortunately no otters 🦦 for today. No one anticipated a **Tren (New)**, one of my favorites! All the little cars have room to drive out :)

Keep the guesses coming for tomorrow!

Rules: Locate some blocks in the grid, each of which are either 1x2 or 1x3, which may not overlap each other. Each clue must be used by a block and each block must contain exactly one clue, the value of which represents to how many different locations the block can be moved by sliding it in the direction of its short end without overlapping another block or going out of the grid. Staying stationary does not count as one of these locations. *All unused cells must form one contiguous area.*

Previous Features:

- [Archive: Wednesday, 29 October 2025](#) bakpao
- [Archive: Saturday, 10 August 2024](#) bakpao (Vanilla)



Example (pzprxs) by bakpao: <https://tinyurl.com/374cs2ff>

Main (pzprxs): <https://tinyurl.com/dqptqdduzs>

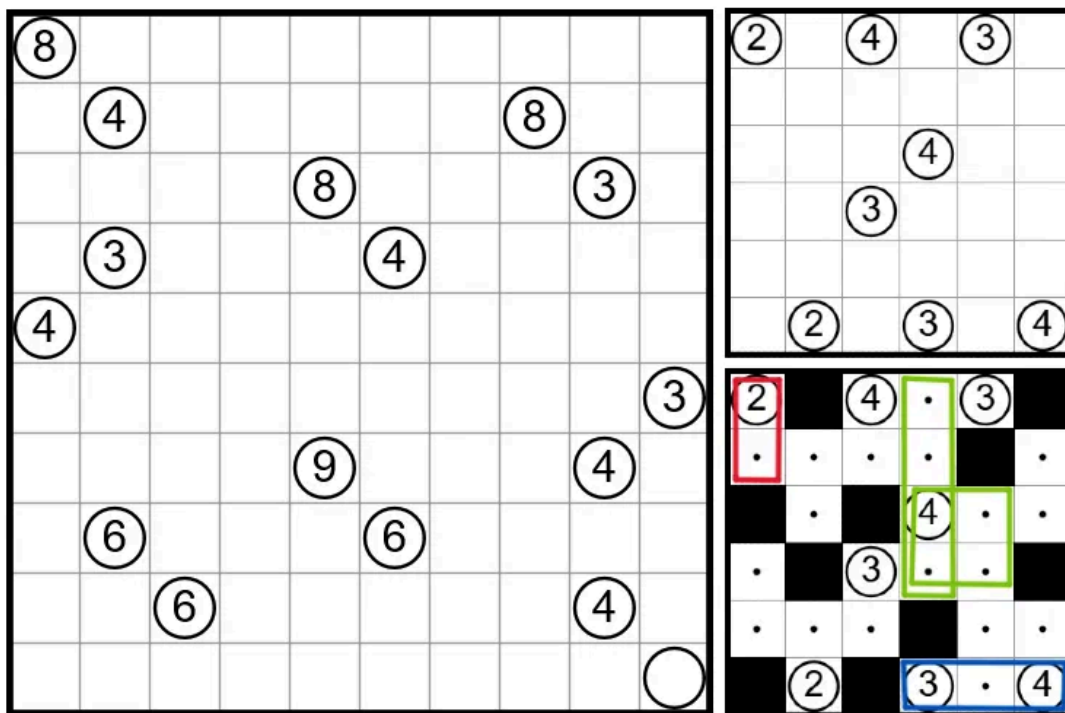
August 4, 2026: Territory | Lavaloid

We have some winners! Congratulations to @blotwell, @Gasp, and @kino for being the first people to earn this month's bonus offers! 🤖🤖🤖 Was it pure luck, or have they discovered The Pattern™? 🙄

Today's GAPP is **Territory** themed around clues being paired diagonally, a theme that I feature surprisingly often.

Previous Territory by Rook: [Archive: Tuesday, 5 May 2026](#)

Rules: Shade some cells so that no two shaded cells are orthogonally adjacent and the remaining unshaded cells form one orthogonally connected area. Clues cannot be shaded, and represent the area of the largest rectangle of unshaded cells containing the clue.



Example (pzprxs) by Menderbug: <https://tinyurl.com/hhbfjwbc>

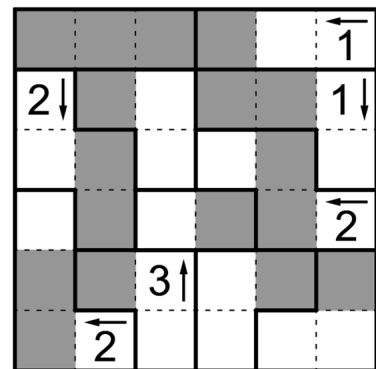
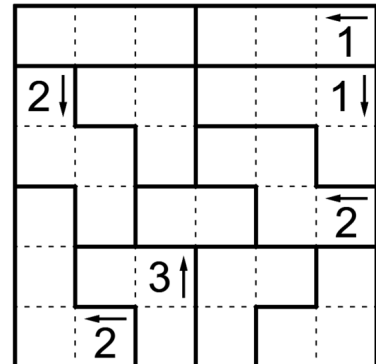
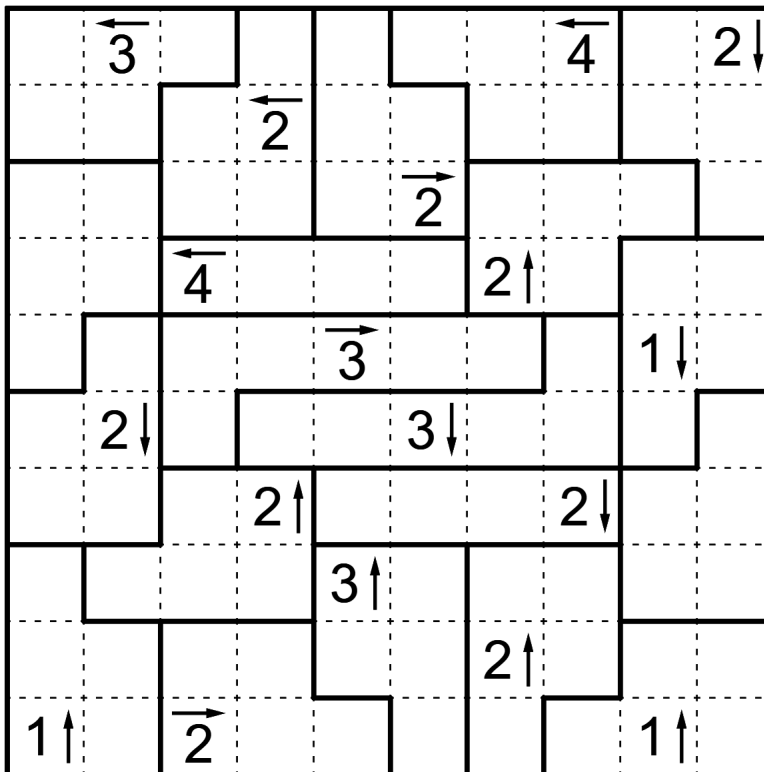
Puzzle (pzprxs): <https://tinyurl.com/y35n97ma>

August 5, 2026: Viewpaint | bakpao

Congratulations to @blotwell and @Calesch for correctly predicting today's genre and earning a bonus otter 🦦🦦! Lots of close guesses... are you all on to something 🦦? Keep them coming, you might just be next winner!

Today's GAPP is a **Viewpaint!** This type was created by the author wormsofcan in 2019 but only just made its debut, in the recent GP round. It's pretty cool!

Rules: Shade some cells such that all shaded cells form one orthogonally connected network with no 2x2 of cells entirely shaded. Every region must contain at least one shaded cell. Shaded cells within a region must all be orthogonally connected, and are called a "group". Clues cannot be shaded and indicate the size of the first group seen by the clue in the direction of the arrow.



Example (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/y9xrvxj8>

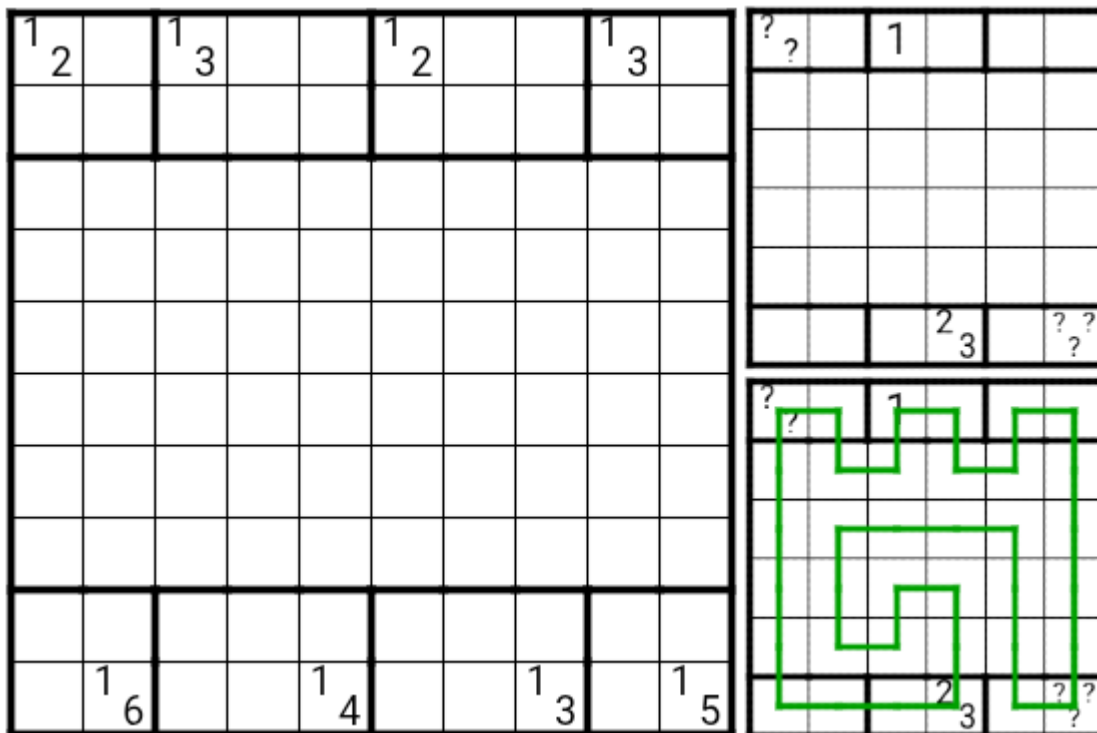
Main (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/522387uc>

August 6, 2026: Rail Pool | jovi_al

Today's puzzle is a **Rail Pool**! Congrats to @kino, @xetto, @Cow, @jaygibby22, @AkashG23 🏆, @jonn, @jettyx, and @Mezzofloat for getting **bonus otters** 🦦 today! If I missed you in the intro and you feel like you successfully guessed the genre, feel free to claim an otter (and be sure to spell your guesses correctly!)

Seems like some people are catching on... or are they?

Rules: Connect the centers of some edge-adjacent cells to form a loop that visits every cell exactly once. Numbers in regions enumerate all of the different lengths of segments partially or fully contained within that region. Question marks represent numbers. If a region contains multiple question marks, each one represents a different number.



Example (pzprxs): <https://tinyurl.com/29ssd5jb>

Puzzle (pzprxs): <https://tinyurl.com/bdh6ytr2>

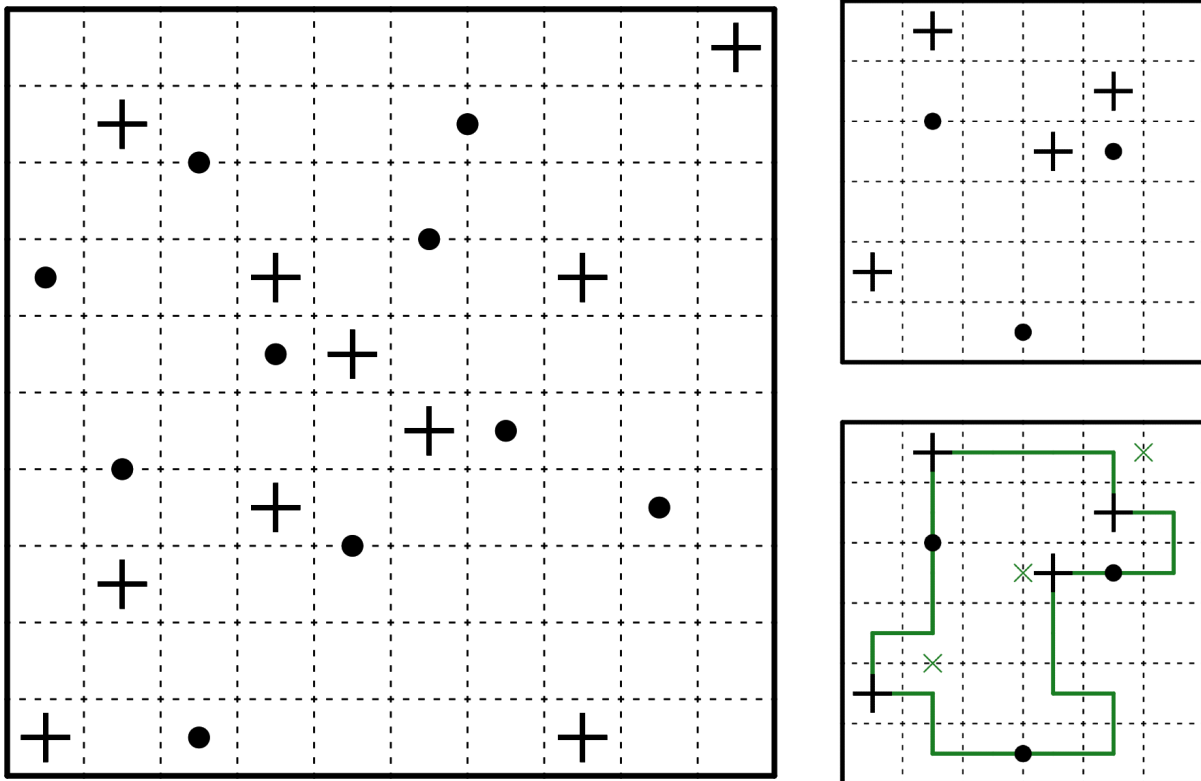
August 7, 2026: Mid Mid Loop | Freddie Hand

Unfortunately nobody guessed that today's puzzle would be a **Mid Mid Loop**. I wonder why?

However, I am handing out a bonus otter 🦦 to @RedShift for guessing Midloop, which is close enough. Congrats!

Rules: Draw a non-intersecting loop that moves orthogonally through the centers of some cells and passes through every circle and every "+" sign. Each circle marks the center of the straight line segment it lies on. The loop must turn on "+" signs, and the two straight segments coming out of a "+" sign must have equal lengths.

Here's the last classic Midloop in GAPP, courtesy of Tyrg: [Archive: Tuesday, 4 April 2023](#)



Example (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/4bdh3mna>

Puzzle (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/4fpen9tk>

August 8, 2026: L-Ring | Rook

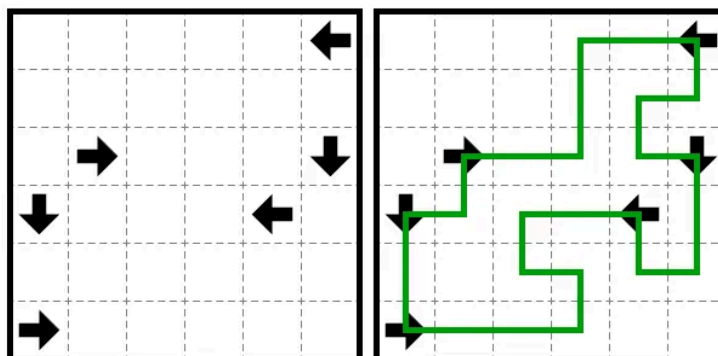
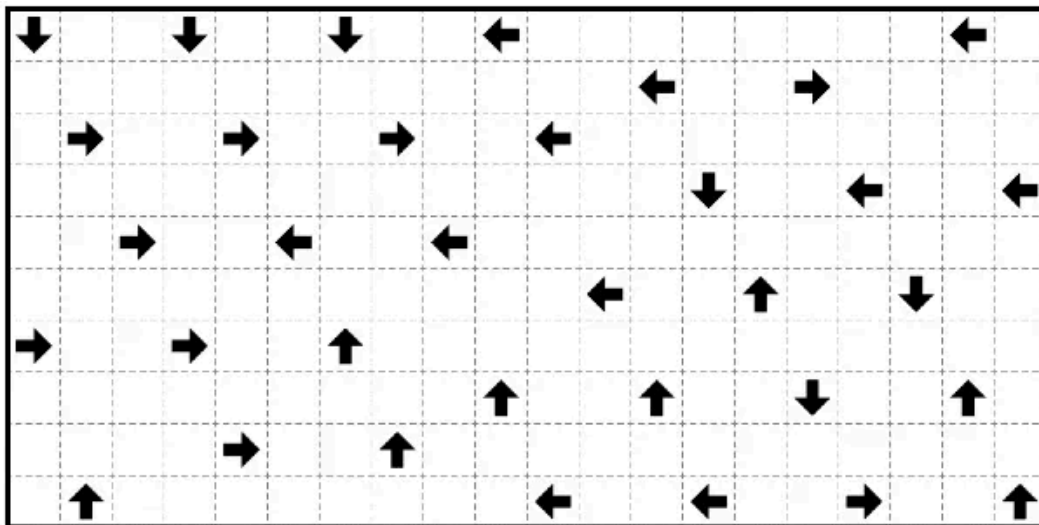
Congrats to @Sigmit64, @Calump, @Gasp, @Calesch, @Rickium, @(Pierre is in a sock), and @tigerIsHere for earning bonus otters 🦦🦦🦦🦦🦦🦦 for guessing today's genre! **L-Ring!** Despite my fondness for question mark clues, I decided to include none in today's puzzle! Although I make no promises for future features . . .

Rules: Draw a non-intersecting loop that moves orthogonally through the centres of some cells. The loop must visit all cells with arrows. The loop must turn in a cell with an arrow, and exit the cell in the direction indicated by the arrow. The length of a loop segment exiting from an arrow must be exactly one cell longer than the segment coming into the same arrow.

Note: *the loop is not directed!*

Previous Features:

- [Archive: Monday, 27 April 2026](#) bakpao



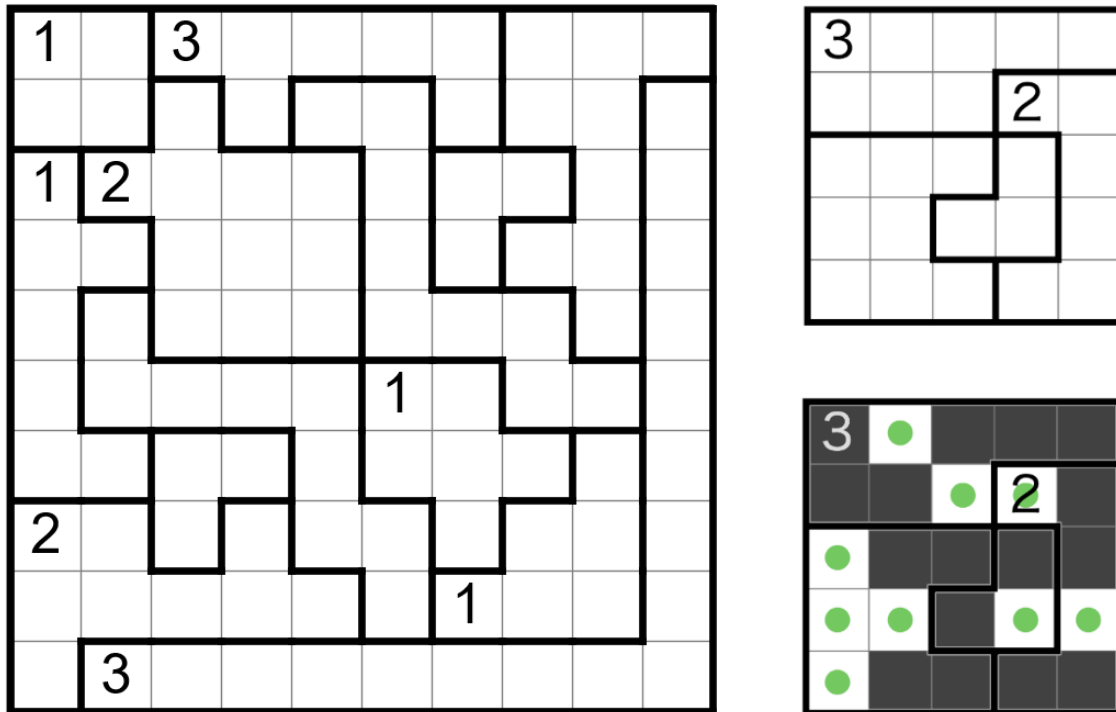
Example (pzprxs): <https://tinyurl.com/mwd2z2ca>
Main (pzprxs, horizontal): <https://tinyurl.com/2sckz4kh>
Main (pzprxs, vertical): <https://tinyurl.com/3bc8x4aa>

August 9, 2026: Nuritwin | Lavaloid

Congratulations to @Malrog for being the only person to correctly guess today's **Nuritwin!** 🐼
That's way less than yesterday, but I suppose it's not the first genre people think of that follows The Pattern™, which of course is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Previous Nuritwin by Freddie: [Archive: Wednesday, 5 March 2025](#)

Rules: Shade some cells such that all shaded cells form one orthogonally connected area. Within each region, there are exactly 2 connected groups of shaded cells, which must have the same size. A number indicates the size of each connected group inside that region. The shaded cells cannot form a 2x2 square.



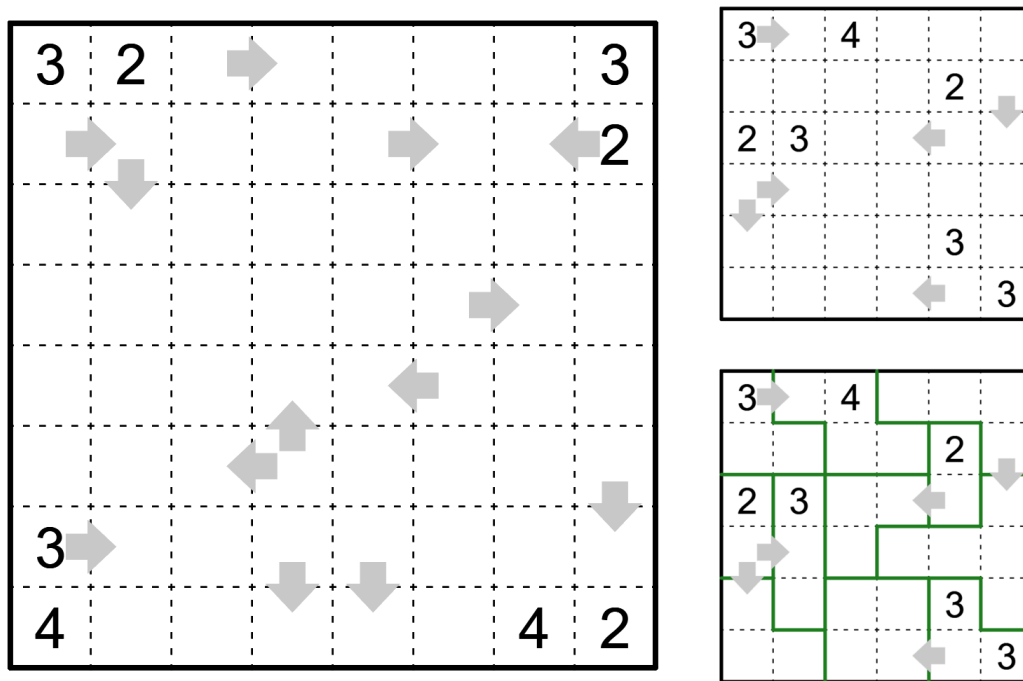
Example (pzprxs) from pzprxs rules page: <https://tinyurl.com/2zenap8h>
Puzzle (pzprxs): <https://tinyurl.com/yrv999kb>

August 10, 2026: Omino Tree | bakpao

No winners today unfortunately! It was admittedly a hard one to predict. Keep your guesses coming though, you might be the winner of the next bonus otter 🦦👀!

Today's GAPP is an **Omino Tree**! This is a brand new genre, making its debut in [Nikoli's Puzzle Communication vol. 195](#) which came out just last month! It's pretty much Evolmino in region division form and it immediately caught my eye. I think it's super fun and I hope like many other new Nikoli genres before it, this one too will catch on!

Rules: Divide the grid into regions such that all regions connect to at least one arrow. Arrows separate two different regions and point towards the larger region, which must be exactly the same shape as the smaller region touching the same arrow, without rotation or reflection, plus one additional square. A number indicates the size of the region that contains it.



The puzzle today comes in two presentations. The first link matches Nikoli's presentation, but can be a bit hard to read with the grey arrows not standing out that much. It also requires borders on arrows to be drawn. The alternate presentation uses smaller black arrows and has the borders on arrows already drawn.

Example (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/y3fyefhz>
(alternate presentation <https://tinyurl.com/3ukzfed6>)

Main (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/2u44fmtf>
(alternate presentation <https://tinyurl.com/22nxunvj>)

August 11, 2026: Sum Box | jovi_al

Today's genre, **Sum Box**, has never appeared in GAPP before! I feel like that doesn't happen very often anymore. What continues to happen, though, is me going for an overly restrictive visual theme...

Unrelated, but a few weeks ago, I mentioned that a certain puzzle was the first instance of Mathsy Monday. This is false; we've apparently been doing it off and on for 3.5 years. I apologize for somehow forgetting this.

(Don't click this if you want to remain clueless as to other people's guesses): (ROT13) Gb gur sbhe crbcyr jub thrffrq Fhqbxh: onfrq ba gur birejuryzvatyl artngvir ernpgvba jr tbq sbe cbfgvat n Fhqbxh ba Ncevy Sbbyf' Qnl 2022, V nffher lbh gung gung jvyy nyzbfg pregnvayl aire unccra ntnva. (Vg jbhqy unir orra irel shaal, gubhtu.)

No bonus otters 🦦 today! Better luck tomorrow!

Rules: Place one or two numbers from the range given outside the grid into every cell such that every number in that range appears in every row or column without repeating. A number in the top left corner of a cell indicates the sum of the number(s) in that cell.

GAPP 101: (ROT13) Gur znkvzhz ahzore bs gur enatr zvahf gur tevq fvmr rdhnyf gur ahzore bs pryyf va rnpu ebj naq pbyhza gung pbagnva gjb ahzoref.

Interface tip: I would recommend shading cells you know to have one number and cells you know to have two, even if you don't necessarily know their contents!

Answer check note: With the cells that contain two numbers, the smaller number must be first for answer check to count.

1-6

11		6	
	1		9
1		8	
	7		9

1-6

¹¹ 56	3	⁶ 24	1
23	¹ 1	6	⁹ 45
¹ 1	46	⁸ 35	2
4	⁷ 25	1	⁰ 36

1-9

17		13		9	
	2		3		13
3		14		6	
	9		5		7
2		8		4	
	9		12		16

Example (Penpa+):

<https://tinyurl.com/24ajwx82>

Puzzle (Penpa+):

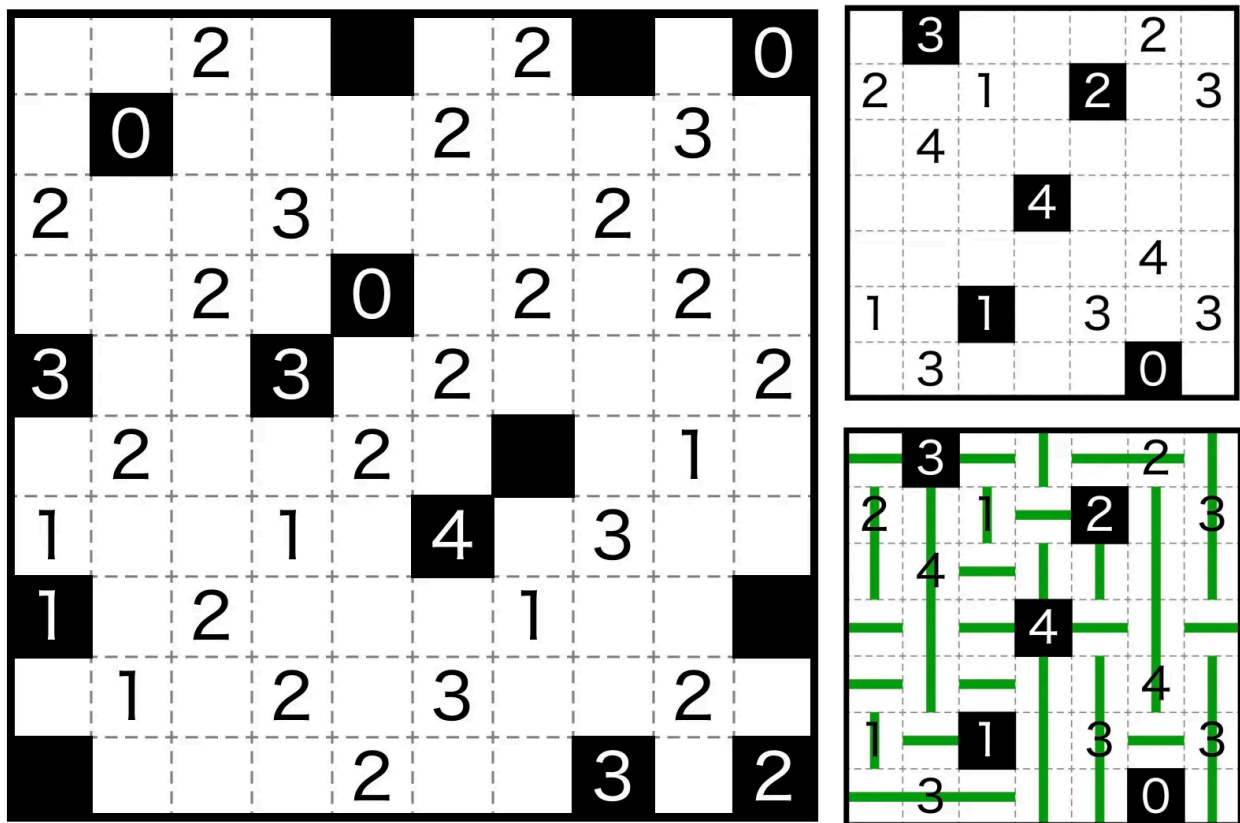
<https://tinyurl.com/25384h42>

August 12, 2026: Tatebo-Yokobo | Freddie Hand

We haven't had a **Tatebo-Yokobo** in a while. But that didn't stop @(Pierre is in a sock) from successfully guessing and earning a bonus otter 🦦! Well done!

Rules: Place a horizontal or vertical line segment into each white cell, connecting the centers of two opposite edges of the cell. Line segments joined at their ends form longer lines. A clue in a black cell represents how many lines point into it. A clue in a white cell represents the length of the line passing through it. Each line passes through at most one clue.

Do check out the first Tatebo-Yokobo in GAPP, courtesy of bakpao: [Archive: Sunday, 19 March 2023](#)



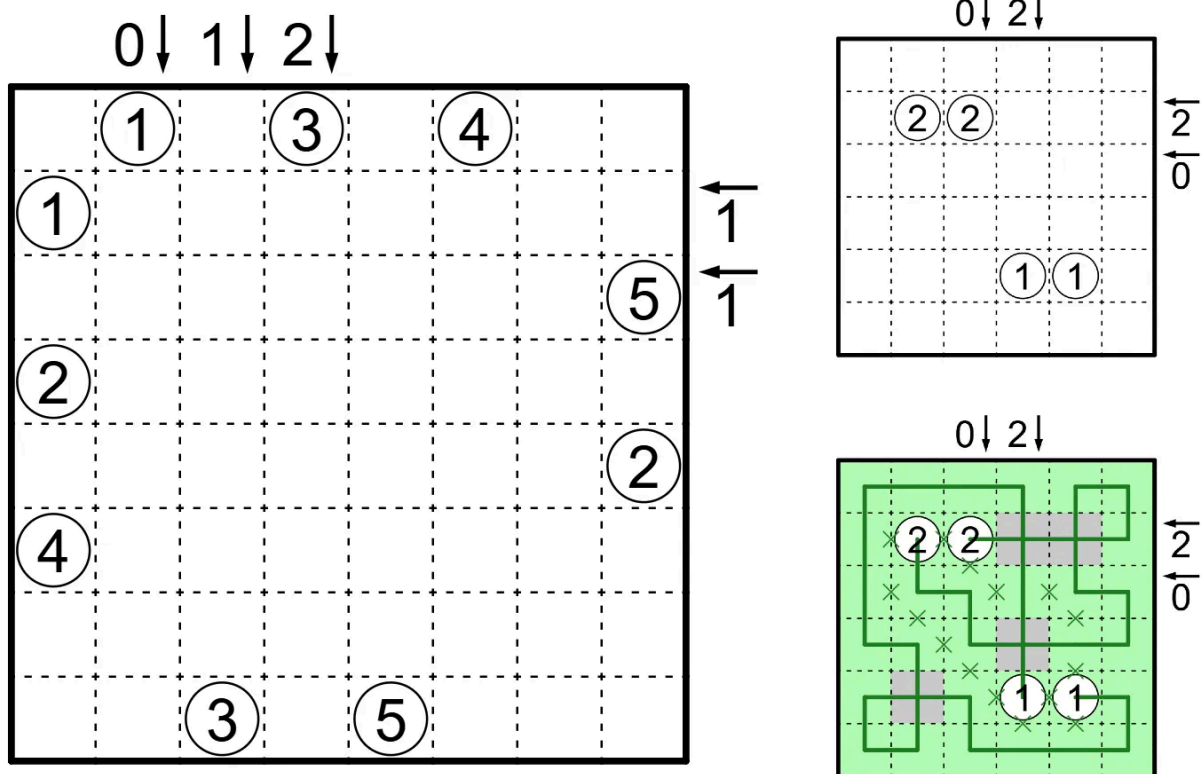
Example (puzz.link) by bakpao: <https://tinyurl.com/t9t2jias>
Puzzle (pzprxs): <https://tinyurl.com/mr3mrrcb>

August 13, 2026: Crossbreed | Rook

No bonus otters 🦦 for today. This was not unexpected, but I was expecting a different guess to be more common. I was shocked to see it was guessed zero times. 😊

Enjoy today's **Crossbreed**!

Rules: Draw paths through the centers of cells, each connecting identical circled numbers. Every cell must be visited by at least one path. Two perpendicular line segments may intersect each other, but cannot turn at their intersection, or otherwise overlap. Clues outside the grid indicate the number of crossings that occur in the corresponding row/column.



Example (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/2h3kybsc>

Main (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/269tn6b9>

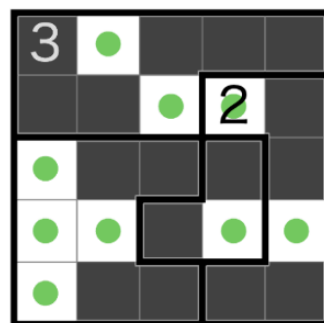
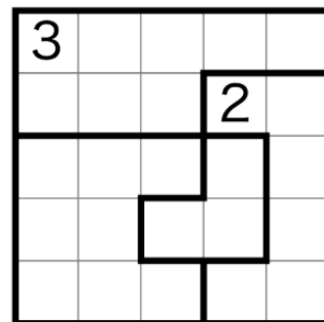
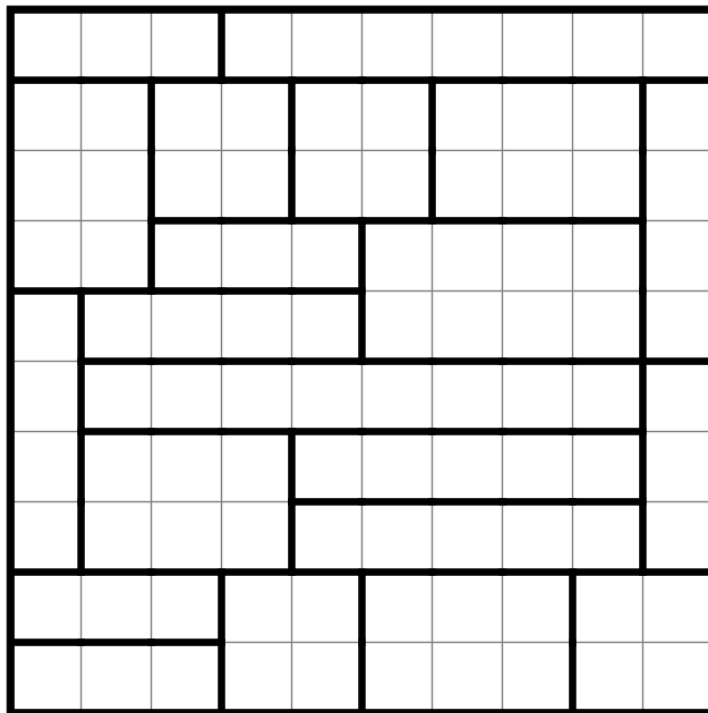
August 14, 2026: Nuritwin | Lavaloid

Unfortunately, no one correctly guessed today's **Nuritwin**. I was expecting someone to get it this time, but I suppose it's not the first genre people think of that fulfills the criteria of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Previous Nuritwin by me: [Archive: Sunday, 9 August 2026](#)

Rules: Shade some cells such that all shaded cells form one orthogonally connected area. Within each region, there are exactly 2 connected groups of shaded cells, which must have the same size. A number indicates the size of each connected group inside that region. The shaded cells cannot form a 2x2 square.

GAPP 101: (ROT13) Ybbx bhg sbe fvghngvbaf jurer cynpvat n funqrq pryy jbhyy zrna gurer vf abg rabhtu ebbz sbe n frpbaq tebhc bs funqrq pryyf va gur ertvba



Example (pzprxs) from pzprxs rules page: <https://tinyurl.com/2zenap8h>
Puzzle (pzprxs): <https://tinyurl.com/ydxmt8xa>

August 15, 2026: Pencils | bakpao

Congratulations to @HunterJE (he/they), @ishanpm, @Dexter345, @AkashG23 🐾 and @Cow for correctly predicting today's genre and earning another bonus otter 🦦! Keep your guesses coming, you might be next winner 🙏!

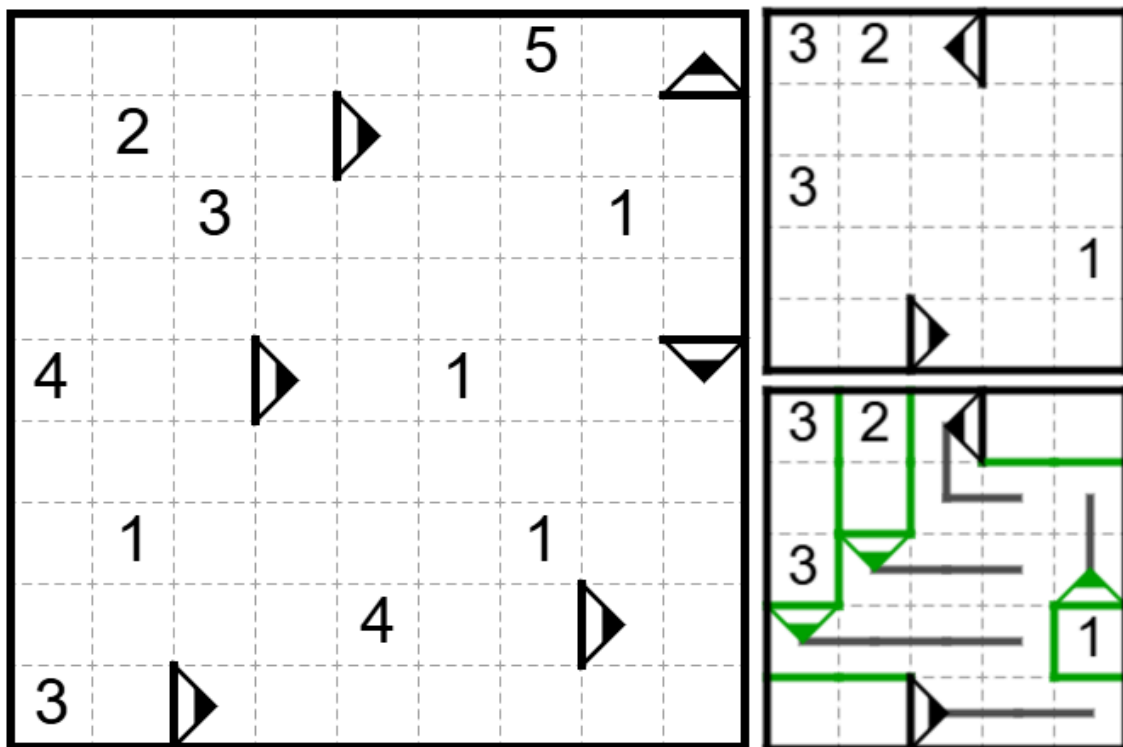
Today's GAPP is a **Pencils**! Apologies for the late post - out all day today.

Rules: Place some pencils in the grid, each consisting of a 1xN body with a tip occupying an extra cell at one end, and draw a path of graphite which is N cells long starting at its tip. Pencils and paths must occupy the entire grid without overlapping one another. A cell with a number must be part of the body of a pencil of the given length. Given pencil tips must be used where they are.

Note that you can have pencils without given number or pencil tip clues.

It is recommended to play around with the interface on the example puzzle to familiarize with the controls; it can be a bit finicky.

Try the most recent feature of Pencils here, by Walker: [Archive: Friday, 24 May 2024](#)



Example (pzprxs, by Tyrgannus): <https://tinyurl.com/336r5rf8>

Main (pzprxs): <https://tinyurl.com/3va2m3xx>

August 16, 2026: If I Could Be A Constellation | jovi_al

Hello everyone! We're halfway through August! That means it's time for a pattern hint: (ROT13)
Vg vfa'g hfhnyyl qrgrezvavgvp, ohg gbqnl jnf!

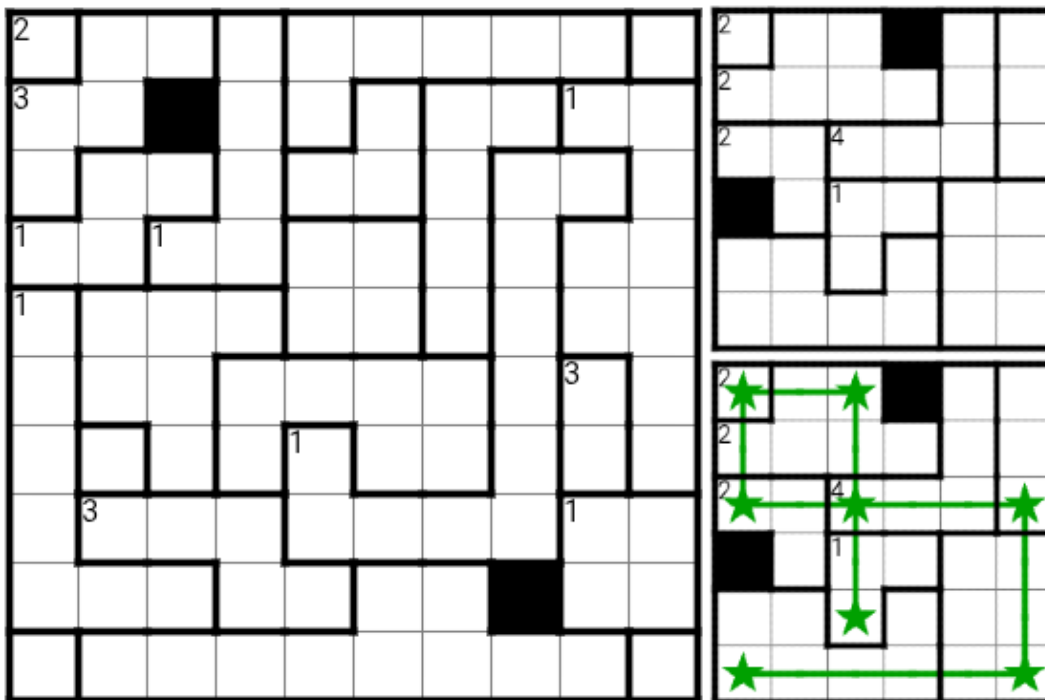
Congrats to @Cow, @kino, @Leo, @Nuujaka, @(Pierre is in a sock), @AkashG23 🍵, @tigerIsHere, @Lorem, @Leia, and @Rickium for earning a bonus otter 🦦 today! Hopefully we'll see more otters going forward!

Today's puzzle is an **If I Could Be A Constellation**, AKA *Seiza*, which recently got a lovely pzprxs implementation! Today's puzzle also comes with a GAPP 101.

Rules: Place a star into some cells such that every outlined region contains exactly one star and no two stars are horizontally, vertically, or diagonally adjacent. Draw horizontal or vertical lines connecting stars such that all stars form one connected network. Lines may not cross each other nor turn. Shaded cells cannot contain stars, and lines must not pass through shaded cells. A number in a region indicates the number of lines connected to that region's star.

GAPP 101: (ROT13) Jngpu bhg sbe pbaarpgvivgl! Ertvabf pyhrq jvgu n bar pna irel rnfvy! pnhfr n argjbex gb orpbzr vfbyngrq, yrnivat vgf fgnef jvgu ab cbffvoyr pbaarpgvba cbvagf gb gur erfg bs gur argjbex.

Interface note: I would recommend using "X" marks on edges of stars that can't contain a line. On mobile this is a little tricky, as you'll have to select the cross marks mode manually.



Example (pzprxs): <https://tinyurl.com/wjc8fh9z>

Puzzle (pzprxs): <https://tinyurl.com/yc2pk8yy>

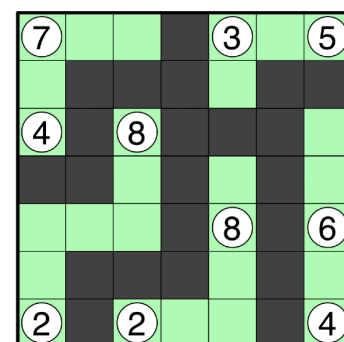
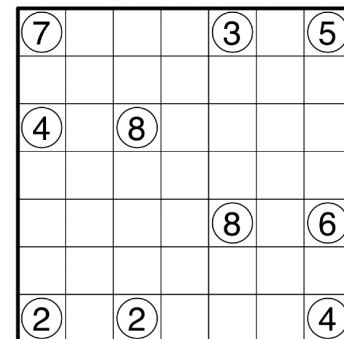
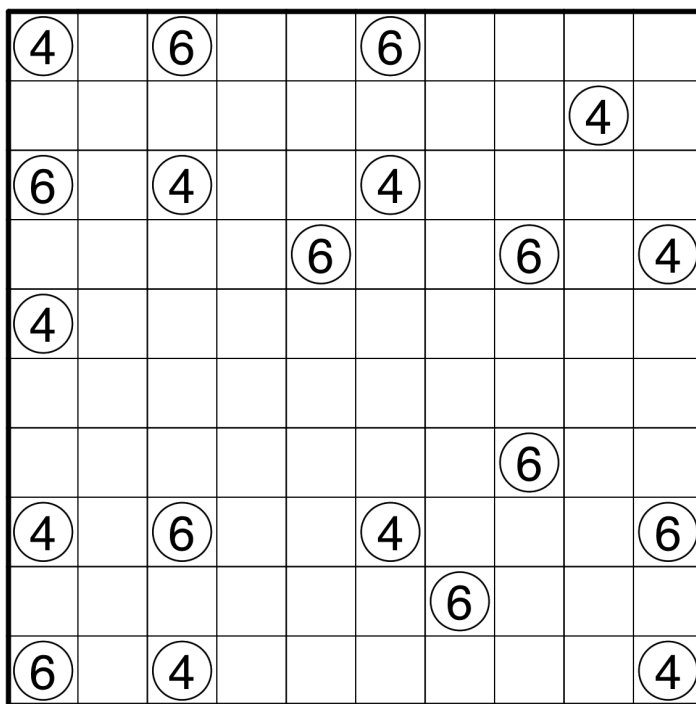
August 17, 2026: Nuraf | Freddie Hand

Congrats to @Cow @Vornicus @atroposhears @Shogia @Calesch @Mikez @Calump @HunterJE (he/they) for guessing that today's puzzle would be a **Nuraf**! It goes into uncharted linguistic territory as a portmanteau of Japanese and Turkish. Perhaps the only word of its kind.

I appreciated the creative guess of No Four in a Row, but unfortunately, it's not correct. I hope we can extend the otter guessing streak far beyond four in a row! (Although it had reached 6 already...)

Rules: Shade some cells so that all shaded cells form one orthogonally connected area and no 2x2 region is entirely shaded. Clues cannot be shaded. Every orthogonally connected area of unshaded cells contains exactly two circles and has an area that lies between the two numbers in the circles, exclusive.

Do check out the previous Nuraf in GAPP, courtesy of bakpao: [Archive: Friday, 6 June 2025](#)



Example (Penpa+) by bakpao: <https://tinyurl.com/2belpbef>

Puzzle (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/4p5593bw>

August 18, 2026: Crossroads | Rook

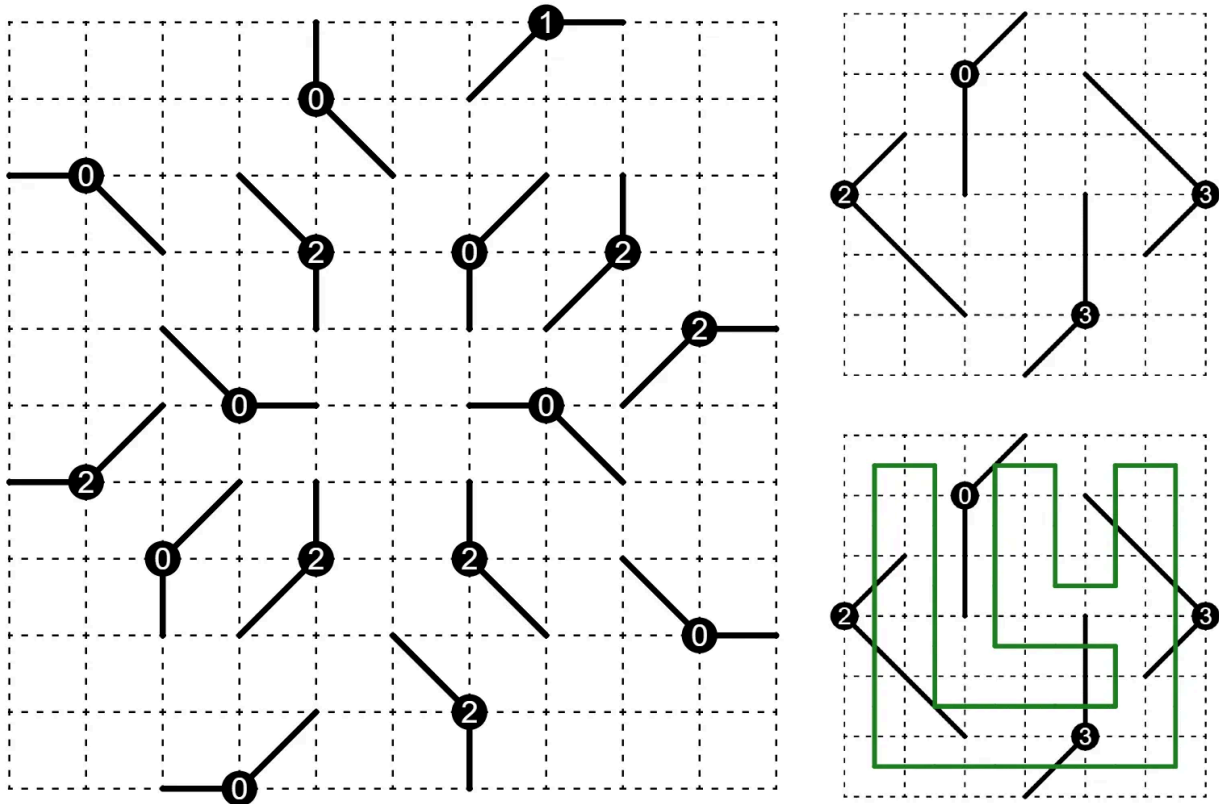
Congrats to @kino, @xetto, @Calump, and @Sigmit64 🤝🤝🤝🤝 for correctly guessing today's **Crossroads!**

I'm very happy to see all the correct guesses for my genre . . . (ROT13) zbfgyf fvapr V fnj ab bar thrff vg sbe zl ynfg cbfg 🤔

Rules: Draw an orthogonal loop that goes through the centers of all cells. Number clues indicate the amount of times the loop crosses the attached network.

Previous Features:

- [Archive: Monday, 5 January 2026](#) Walker
- [Archive: Saturday, 8 March 2025](#) bakpao (Supersized)



Example (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/7jcapsuj>

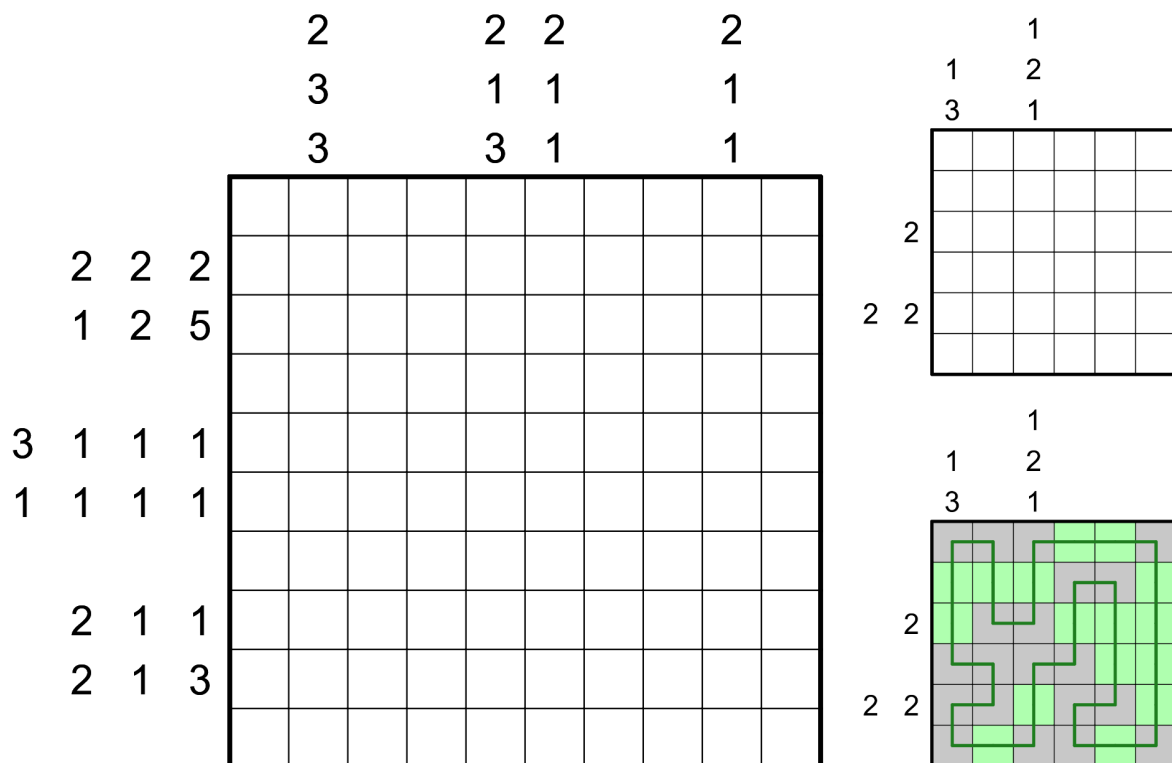
Main (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/426j76w5>

August 19, 2026: Nonotour | Lavaloid

Congratulations to @Malrog for being the only person to correctly guess today's **Nonotour!** 🐼
That's way less than yesterday, but I suppose it's not the first genre people think of that fulfills the criteria of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Rules: Draw a non-intersecting loop through the centers of all cells. Clues outside the grid represent the lengths of the groups of consecutive cells in which the loop makes a turn in the corresponding row or column, in order.

Solving tip: You can use **Shading** or **Composite > Loop > Line 0X** to mark which cells are turns, which can be helpful for scanning.



Example (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/38ma7jca>

Puzzle (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/34jnfh5m>

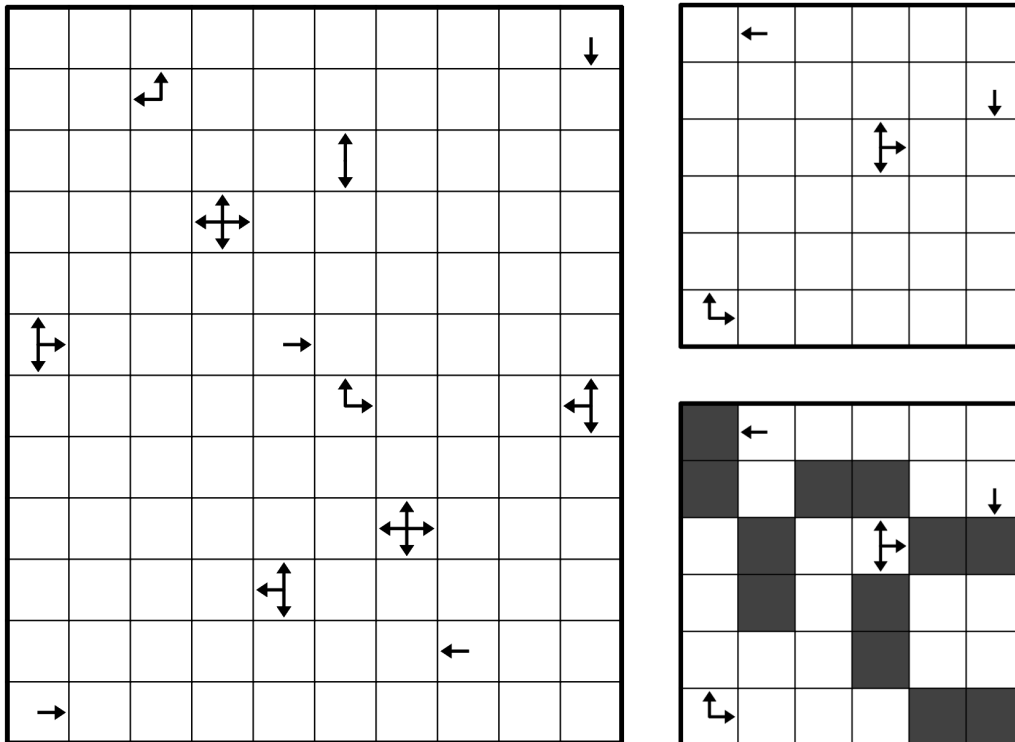
August 20, 2026: Nori Chain | bakpao

Congratulations to @Calesch for being the only one to correctly predict today's genre and earning another bonus offer 🐾! Still plenty of time to earn your bonus offers - keep the guesses coming 🐾👀!

Today's GAPP is a **Nori Chain**! It's one of the types featured in this year's final [GP round](#), authored by none other than @Prasanna16391 . The contest starts tomorrow and runs until next Wednesday. Do give it a try - I'm sure it's going to be a good one!

Rules: Shade some dominoes of cells such that all dominoes of shaded cells are diagonally connected. Shaded dominoes may not touch orthogonally. Clued cells cannot be shaded, and contain arrows indicating ALL of the orthogonal directions which tie for having a shaded cell appearing closest to the clued cell. At least one shaded cell must appear in the direction of an arrow.

Note that ⚠️🔴 this puzzle has a negative constraint! 🔴⚠️



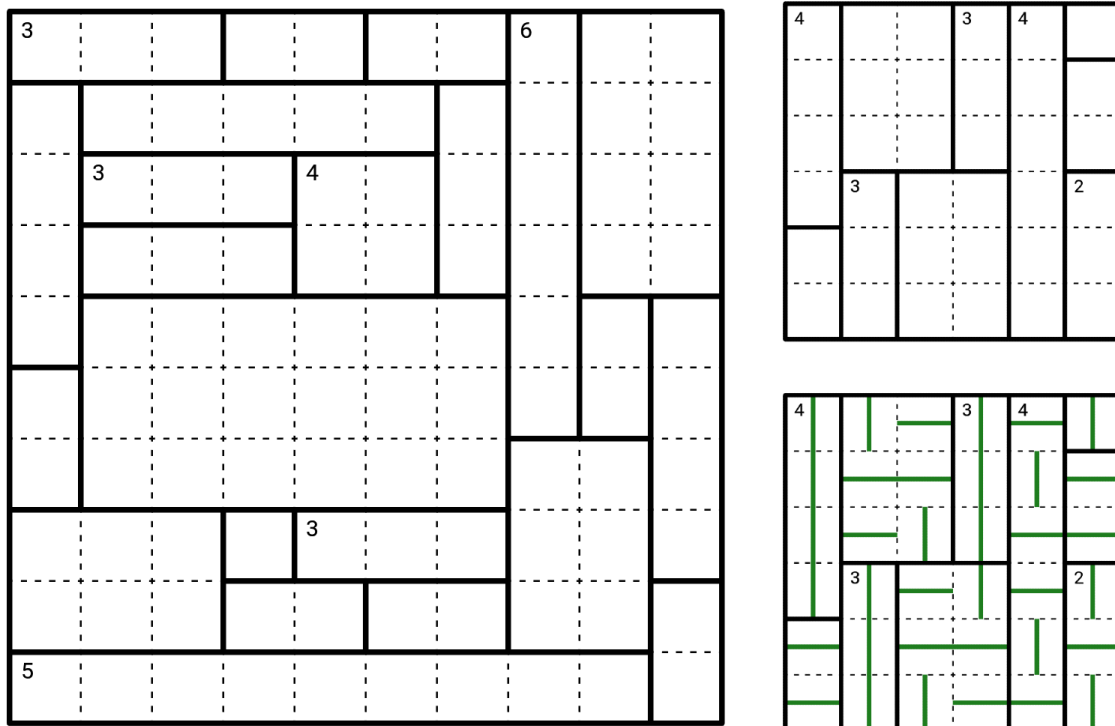
Example (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/bdh3zs9p>
Main (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/3p3thka8>

August 21, 2026: Juosan (Symmetry) | jovi_al

Hey everyone! Today's puzzle is my latest obsession, **Juosan (Symmetry)** (or *Nasoujuosan*). This is a recently developed variant of *Juosan* that I think opens the door to a lot of cool logic, and I hope you find it as fun as I do!

Today marks one week of consecutive days where otters were earned, so congratulations to @Vornicus, @quantie, @atroposhears, @MikoKisai, @HunterJE (he/they), @Cow, @tigerIsHere, @dangernoodle, @xetto, @ManicVolcanic, @Calesch, @Lorem, @zygoloid, @(Pierre is in a sock), @Dexter345, @RynLorathel, @tanja, @Leo, @randomperson123, @bee :3, @ConManAU, @AkashG23 🍷, @kino, and @Oripy! This can't be coincidence---I'm confident most of you know the pattern by now!

Rules: Place a horizontal or vertical line segment (called a "pipe") into each cell, connecting the centers of two opposite edges of the cell. A number in a region represents how many horizontal or vertical pipes it contains (whichever there are more of). There may not exist a run of three or more consecutive cells containing distinct parallel pipes anywhere in the grid. All regions must contain a 180° point symmetric configuration of pipes.



Example (pzprxs, no answer check): <https://tinyurl.com/yvnrauab>

Example (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/22nmmq39>

Puzzle (pzprxs, no answer check): <https://tinyurl.com/3bdcdnf4>

Puzzle (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/28fw65pg>

August 22, 2026: Number Rope | Freddie Hand

Congratulations to @atroposhears @Calesch @Nuujaka for guessing today would be a **Number Rope** and winning bonus offers! 🍪🍪🍪

It's another genre that appears in the final round of the Puzzle GP

(<https://gp.worldpuzzle.org/content/instruction-booklet-2>) authored by Prasanna. Highly recommended! And an *extra* bonus 🍪 up for grabs if you give it a go!

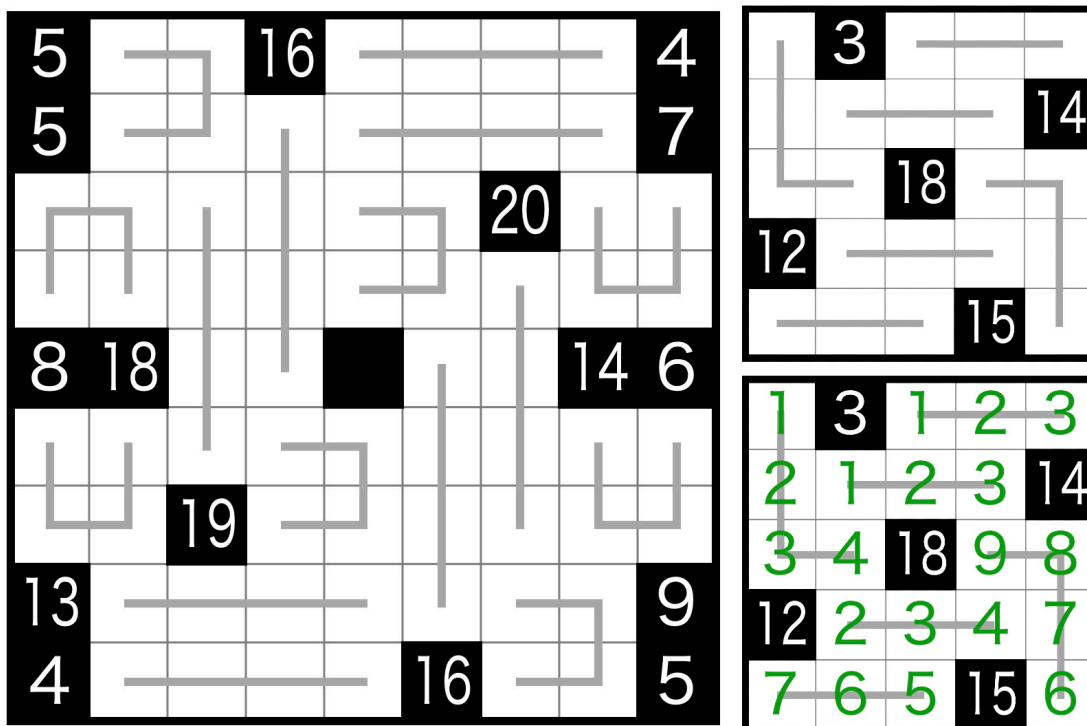
Rules: Place a number from 1 to 9 into each white cell. No two orthogonally adjacent cells may contain the same number. Numbers along a rope must form a sequence of consecutive numbers, in order. A clue in a black cell indicates the sum of the numbers in the orthogonally adjacent white cells.

Interface Notes

- Dragging along a rope will place increasing numbers.
- For mobile solvers, I recommend enabling "input numbers by panel". You can input the smallest number on the rope, and drag to complete it!

Do check out the previous Number Ropes in GAPP:

- [Archive: Saturday, 10 May 2025](#) by Walker (supersized)
- [Archive: Monday, 28 November 2022](#) by shye



Example (puzzlink) by shye: <https://tinyurl.com/t37ur8au>

Puzzle (pzprxs): <https://tinyurl.com/n3e5xbd7>

August 23, 2026: Heyawake (Deltoidal Trihexagonal) | Rook

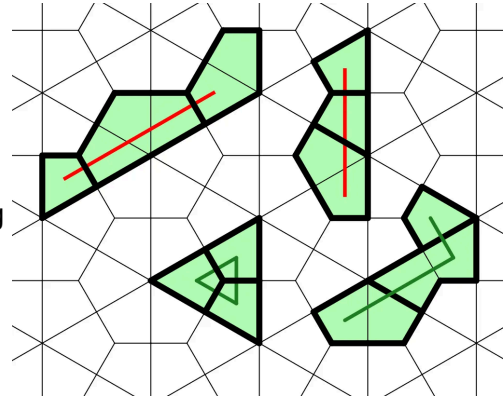
Today's GAPP is a **Heyawake** on a Deltoidal Trihexagonal grid! Congrats to @AkashG23 🐾, @(Pierre is in a sock), @Calump, @atroposhears, @Nuujaka, @quantie, @Dexter345, @Rickium, @tigerIsHere, @kino, @Lorem, and @/AZURE for guessing it! Here are your otters



In other news, I just finished moving into my new dorm! I might have brought too many board games, but time will tell!

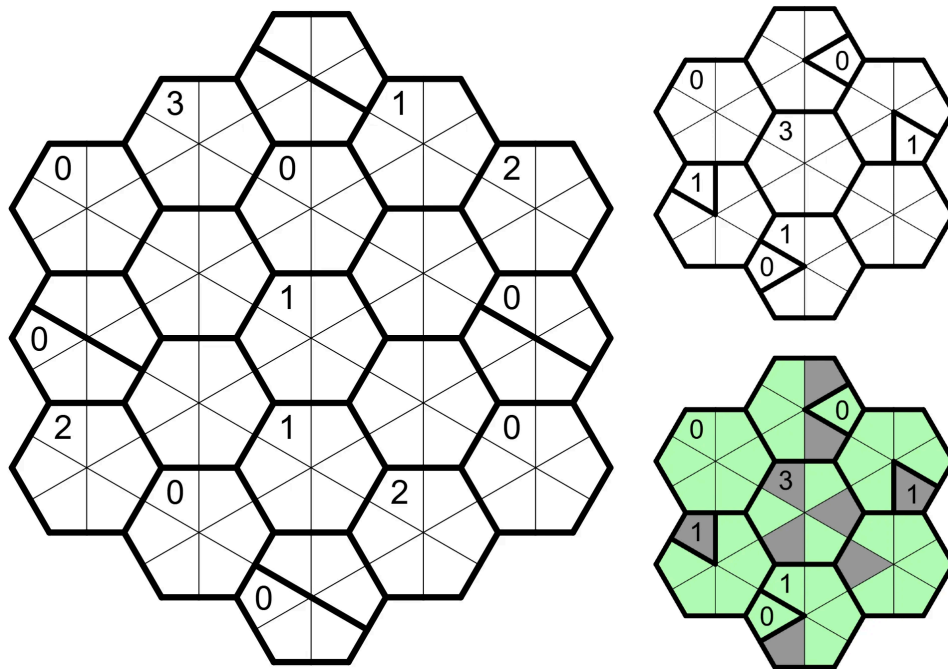
Rules: Shade some cells such that no two shaded cells share an edge and any unshaded cell is reachable from any other by crossing cell edges. A number in a region indicates the number of shaded cells in that region. No line of unshaded cells parallel to one of the lines bisecting each hexagon may cross more than one region border.

Note: I have included a visual to show off how the border rule works in this genre if you're confused!



Previous Features:

- [Archive: Sunday, 12 July 2026](#) jovi (Triangular)
- [Archive: Saturday, 13 December 2025](#) shy (Supersized, Vanilla)



Example (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/mwf4rwrk>

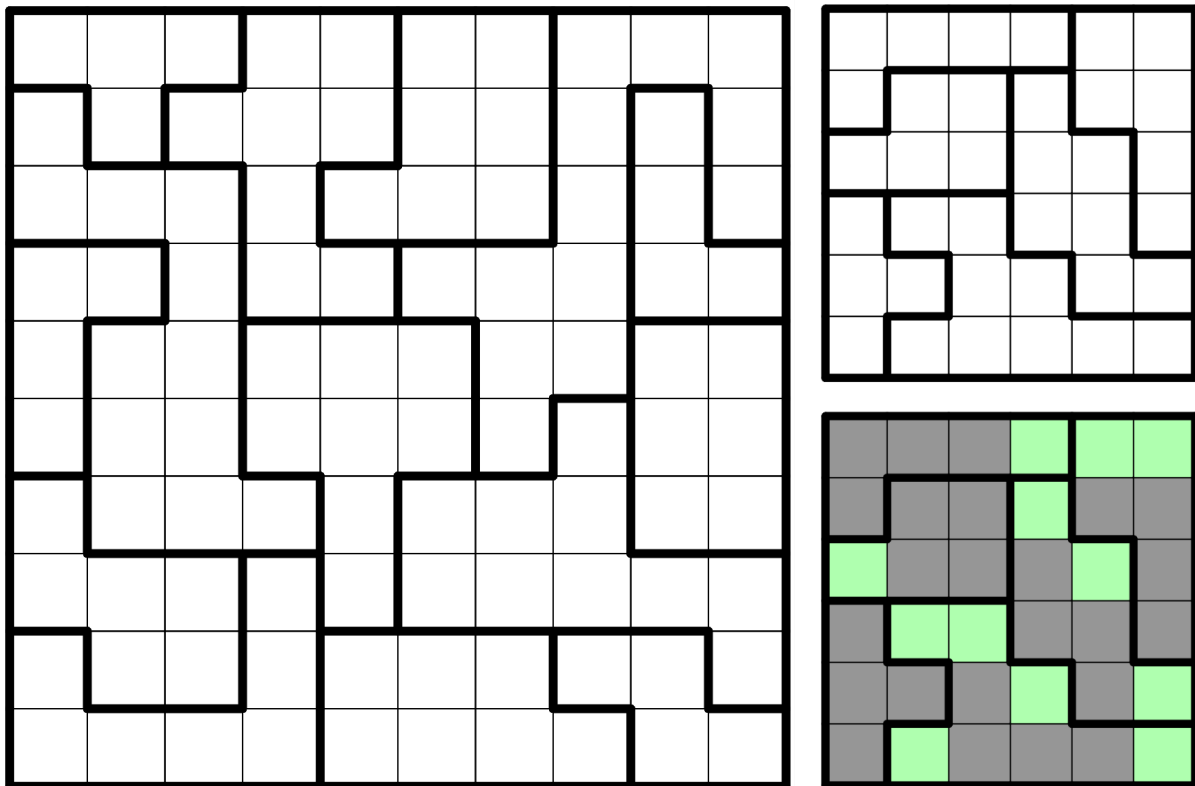
Main (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/y26jv8ph>

August 24, 2026: LOTS | Lavaloid

Congratulations to @atroposhears, @Calump, @Nuujaka, @Rickium, @RynLorathel for correctly guessing today's **LOTS**! Lots of otters today 🦦🦦🦦🦦🦦

Previous LOTS by me: [Archive: Saturday, 31 May 2025](#)

Rules: Shade one tetromino of cells in each region so that all shaded cells form one orthogonally connected area. Two tetrominoes of the same shape may not touch orthogonally, counting rotations and reflections as the same. There may not exist a run of more than three consecutive shaded cells horizontally or vertically anywhere in the grid.



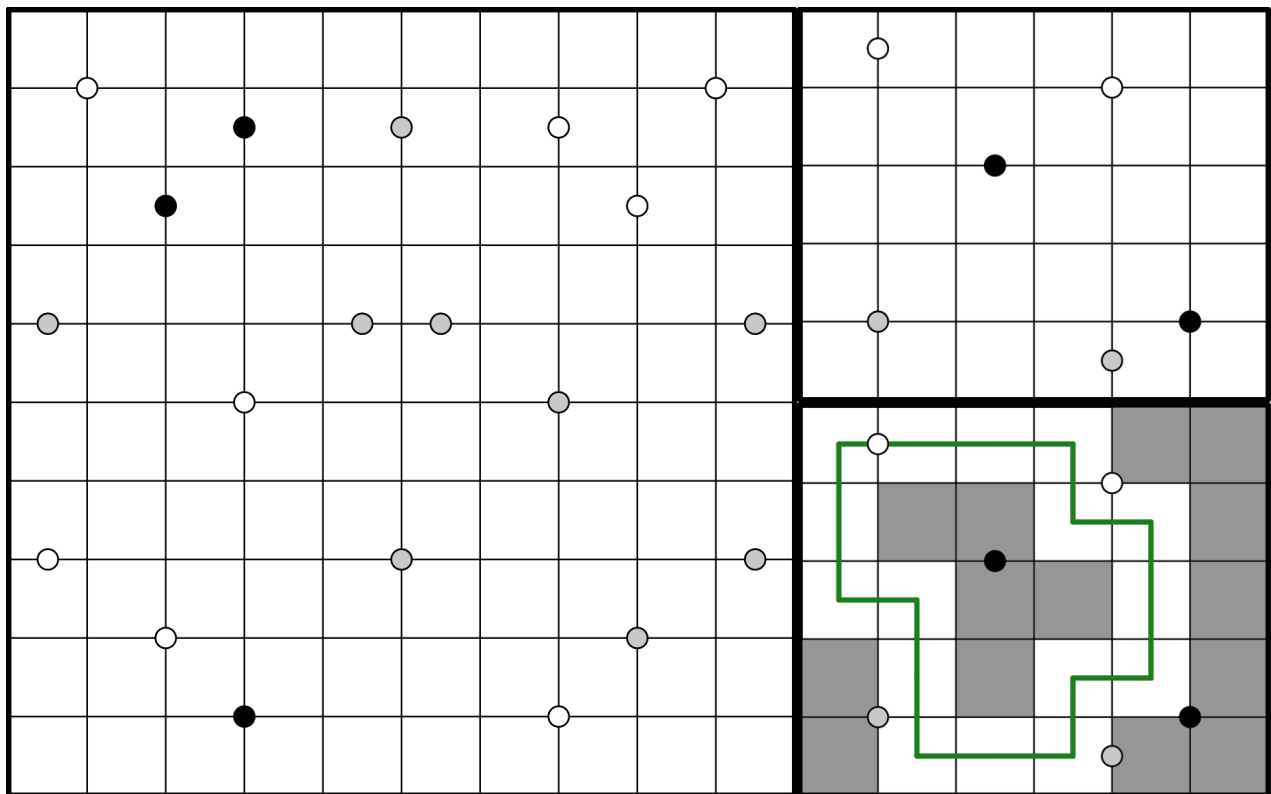
Example (Penpa+) by Freddie: <https://tinyurl.com/2a3ompqa>
Puzzle (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/h3uzs9de>

August 25, 2026: Kurarin (Patrol) | bakpao

Congratulations to @kino, @Calesch, @ConManAU and @Shogia for correctly predicting today's genre and earning another bonus otter 🦦! We're nearing the end of August, it's the last week to earn your bonus otter 🦦👀!

Today's GAPP is a **Kurarin (Patrol)**! I was initially going to write a classic Kurarin but happened to come across this variant on Puzsq, and thought the combination works surprisingly well.

Rules: Shade some cells and draw a non-intersecting loop through all remaining cells. Black circles indicate there are more shaded than unshaded cells among the cells the circle overlaps. White circles indicate more unshaded cells. Grey circles indicate the amount of shaded and unshaded cells is equal. No 2x2 area of the grid may be entirely used or unused by the loop.



Example (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/4zbdvm46>

Example (pzprxs, no answer check): <https://tinyurl.com/mv235btk>

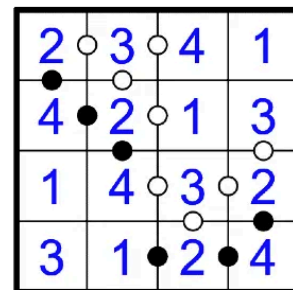
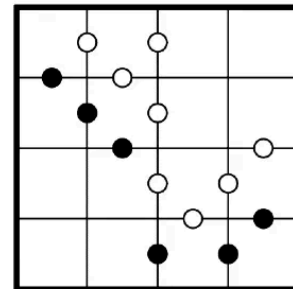
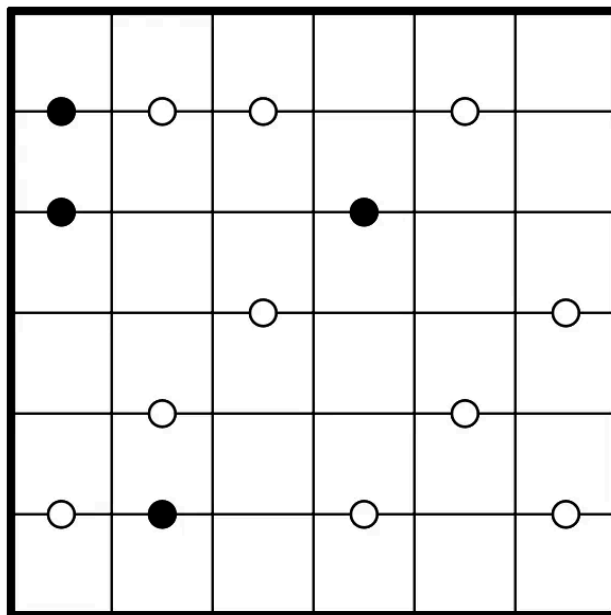
Main (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/3kxn3z4j>

Main (pzprxs, no answer check): <https://tinyurl.com/3ad8uatk>

August 26, 2026: Kropki | jovi_al

Congratulations to @atroposhears and @Leo for guessing today's **Kropki** and earning a **bonus otter** 🦦! My next puzzle will be the last one of the month, where the pattern is revealed... though I'm not sure how necessary revealing is at this point!

Rules: Place a whole number from 1-N (where N is the side length of the grid) into every cell such that every number from that range appears in every row and column. A black dot between two cells indicates that the numbers in those cells form a 1:2 ratio (in some order). A white dot between two cells indicates that the numbers in those cells are consecutive. If a pair of cells is not separated by a dot, then the numbers in those cells must have neither property.



Example (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/2bw2hlow>
Puzzle (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/249z7xx5>

August 27, 2026: Petri Net | Freddie Hand

Congrats to @dangernoodle for guessing that today's puzzle would be a **Petri Net** and winning the only 🏆 today! Everyone else, better luck next time!

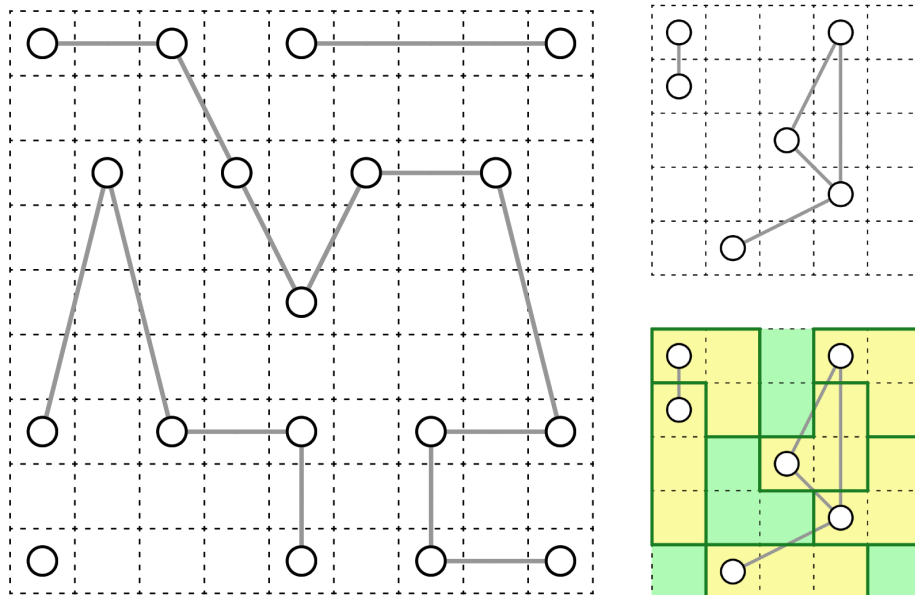
Rules:

- Place some trominoes (3-cell blocks) such that each tromino contains exactly one circle and each circle has a tromino.
- Each pair of circles that are connected by a line must have orthogonally adjacent trominoes.
- If two circles are NOT connected by a line, the corresponding trominoes must NOT orthogonally touch.

Interface Notes:

- The answer checker only checks for edges, not shading.
- The selected mode (edgexoi) may be awkward to use on mobile - I would recommend switching between the *Edge* and *Surface* modes.

Do check out the previous Petri Net in GAPP, courtesy of Lavaloid: [Archive: Friday, 18 October 2024](#)



Example (Penpa+) by Lavaloid: <https://tinyurl.com/2xo6fovg>
Puzzle (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/3k2tds2m>

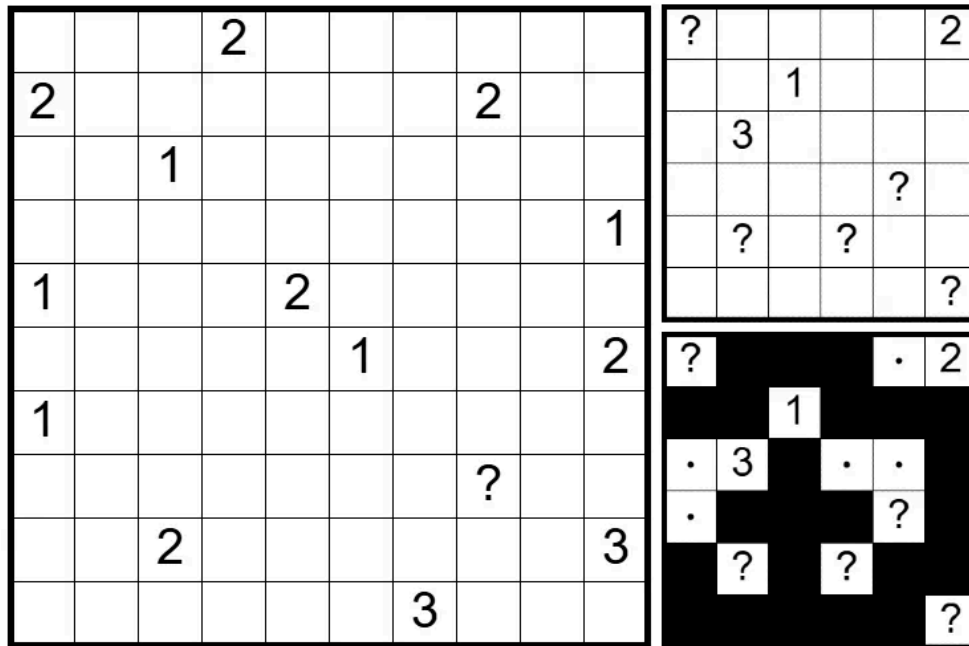
August 28, 2026: Nurikabe | Rook

Today's GAPP is finally a **Nurikabe**! The last time we featured a vanilla nurikabe was . . . *checks notes* . . . in 2024?? Congrats to @Leo, @VikingSchism, @quantie, @HunterJE (he/they), @Nuujaka, @/AZURE, @tigerIsHere, and @bee :3 for earning some long awaited bonus otters! Here they are! Look at them go! 🦦🦦🦦🦦🦦🦦🦦🦦

Rules: Shade some cells so that all shaded cells form one orthogonally connected area. Clues cannot be shaded, and every orthogonally connected area of unshaded cells contains exactly one clue, the value of which represents the size of the area. No 2x2 region may be entirely shaded. ? clues are to be replaced by a number.

Previous Features:

- [Archive: Friday, 27 December 2024](#) Lavaloid
- [Archive: Thursday, 14 March 2024](#) Lavaloid



Example (pzprxs) by xoned: <https://tinyurl.com/yv8459mx>

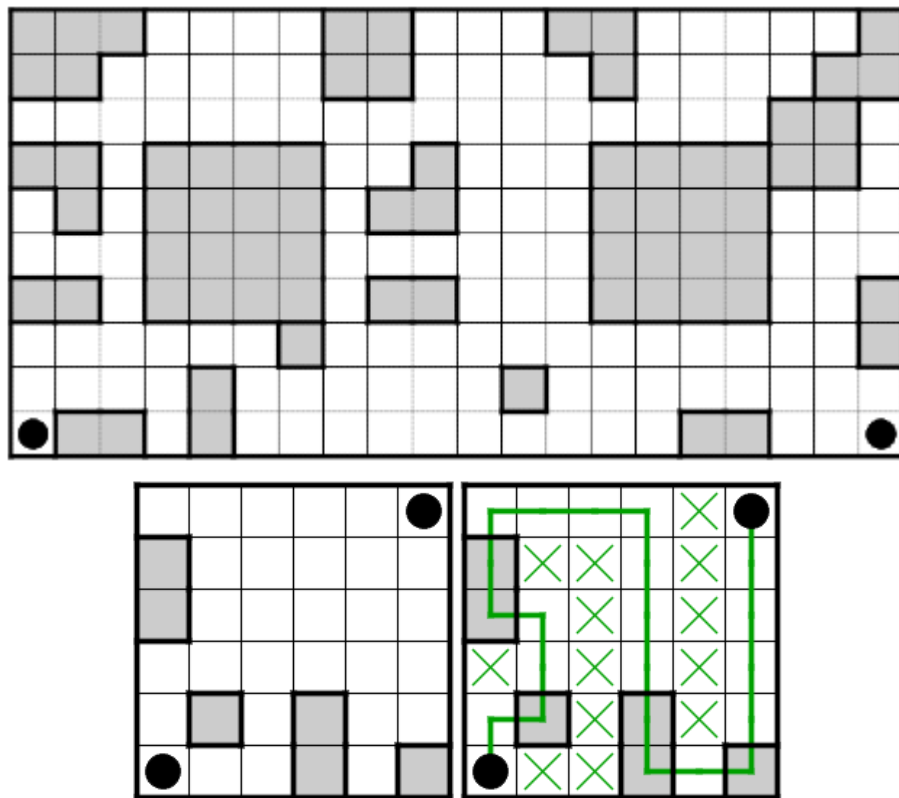
Main (pzprxs): <https://tinyurl.com/3ktv34dd>

August 29, 2026: Persistence of Memory | Lavaloid

Congratulations to @AkashG23 🙌, @atroposhears, @/AZURE, @bee :3, @Calesch, @Calump, @Dexter345, @HunterJE (he/they), @Leo, @Lorem, @Malrog, @Marco, @MikoKisai, @Oripy, @(Pierre is in a sock), @Plostoni (they/them), @Rickium, @Sigmit64, @85392🍉, @tigerIsHere, @xetto for correctly guessing today's genre! We haven't had a supersized puzzle for a while, so here's a supersized **Persistence of Memory**.

Previous Persistence of Memory by Freddie: [Archive: Thursday, 20 March 2025](#)

Rules: Draw a non-intersecting path connecting the two circles. Cells used by the path (which are not consecutive line segments) do not touch orthogonally or diagonally. (Alternatively, no 2x2 group of cells in the grid may be entirely used by the path nor visited more than once). The path visits each shaded region at least once, and if two shaded regions are the same shape and orientation, the line segments within them (including entrances and exits) must be identical.



Example (pzprxs) by Freddie: <https://tinyurl.com/4hdpa64j>

Puzzle (pzprxs, portrait): <https://tinyurl.com/3s44yh5x>

Puzzle (pzprxs, landscape): <https://tinyurl.com/mu78b49t>

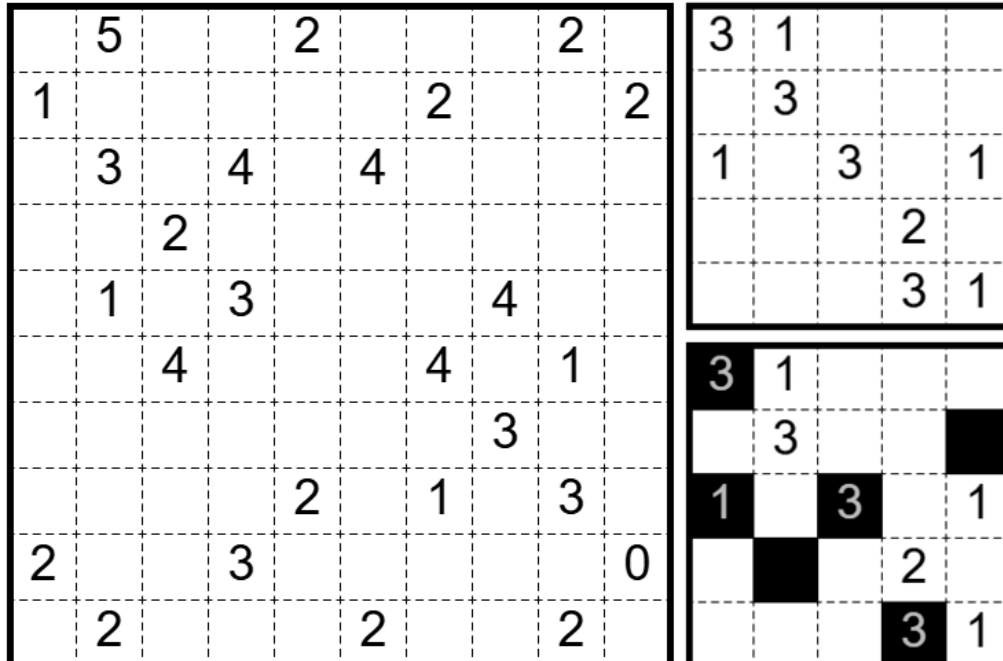
August 30, 2026: Smullyanic Dynasty | bakpao

I count 20 of you who correctly predicted today's genre! I'm in a bit of a rush though, so feel free to claim your bonus otter yourself if you guessed right! Today is the last day of the guessing game, so you have only one more chance to win a bonus otter! 🦦

I woke up in a good mood this morning. As such, today's GAPP is a **Smullyanic Dynasty** and not a (ROT13) Fyvgurenv Cbbyvax which, to my surprise, did not get guessed a single time. Why that genre specifically? Tune in tomorrow for the reveal of the pattern of this year's guessing game!

Rules: Shade some cells so that no two shaded cells are orthogonally adjacent and the remaining unshaded cells form one orthogonally connected area. Unshaded clues indicate the number of shaded cells in the surrounding 3x3 area (for clues on the edge, this is the 2x3 area surrounding the clue, and the 2x2 area for clues in the corner). Shaded clues must be different from the number of shaded cells in the surrounding 3x3 area, i.e. shaded clues are liars.

Try the most recent feature of Smullyanic Dynasty here, by Freddie: [Archive: Wednesday. 16 October 2024](#)



Example (pzprxs, by Freddie): <https://tinyurl.com/ykz45vst>

Main (pzprxs): <https://tinyurl.com/mr3z4hde>

August 31, 2026: Isocube | jovi_al

It's the last puzzle of the month, so here are some fun otter 🦦 stats:

This month, including today, we gave out 153 otters 🦦 to 44 people, and the person who had the most is @calesch, claiming **ten** of them! Tying for second-most is @atroposhears and @kinoseidon with eight each! Congrats!

The first part of the pattern was noticed very early (each day's genre started with the first letter of the previous day's bird). The second part, however, wasn't noticed by many before the 16th's *If I Could Be A Constellation*, which included a massive hint (each bird was two words, and the first one encoded the number of letters in the next day's genre)!

Seven puzzles this month started with "N," five of which were clued by a reference to the bird "Nene" in some way. I would recommend going back and reading the adjectives associated with that bird's appearance! They're quite funny, and it became a bit of a joke.

Thanks to everyone for playing and solving this month! I love this tradition, and I'm looking forward to next year! With all that said...

Congratulations to @calesch and @jonn for earning the last **bonus otters** 🦦 by guessing today would be **Isocube**! Today's puzzle comes with a GAPP 101.

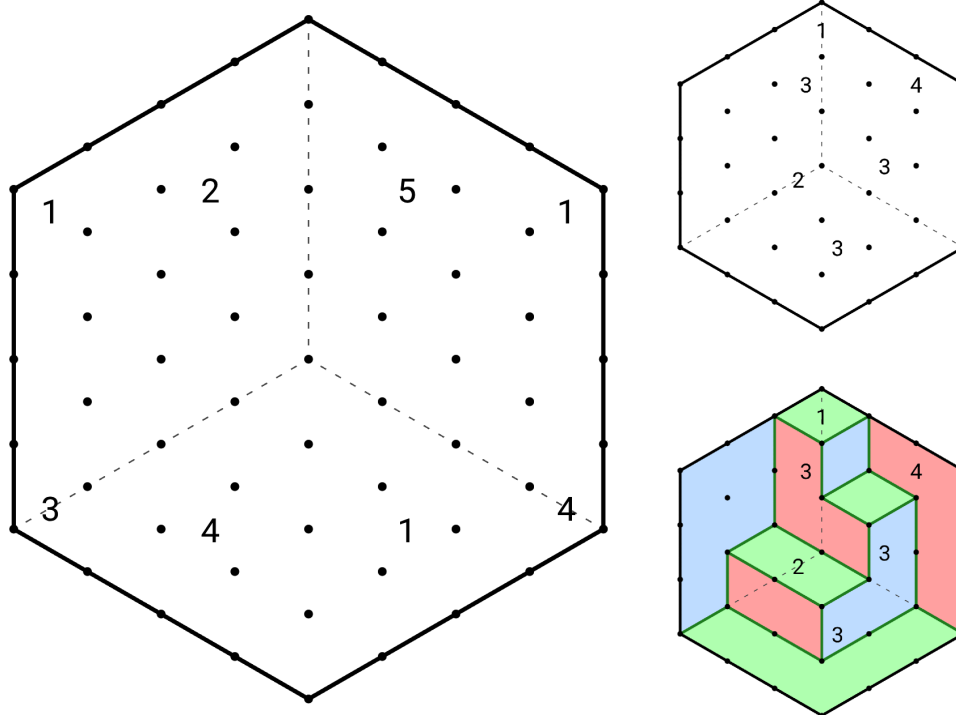
I learned today that, despite being invented independently for last year's *Instructionless Week*, *Isocube* is extraordinarily similar to an existing Nikoli genre whose name roughly translates to "Container Load." There are a few key differences, though, so maybe I'll cover that one soon!

Rules: Connect pairs of edge-adjacent triangular cells to form 2-cell diamonds such that all cells are part of a diamond. Divide the grid into regions of edge-adjacent diamonds of the same orientation. No two regions with diamonds of the same orientation may be edge-adjacent. A clue indicates the number of diamonds in the region containing the number.

↓ Puzzle on the next page ↓

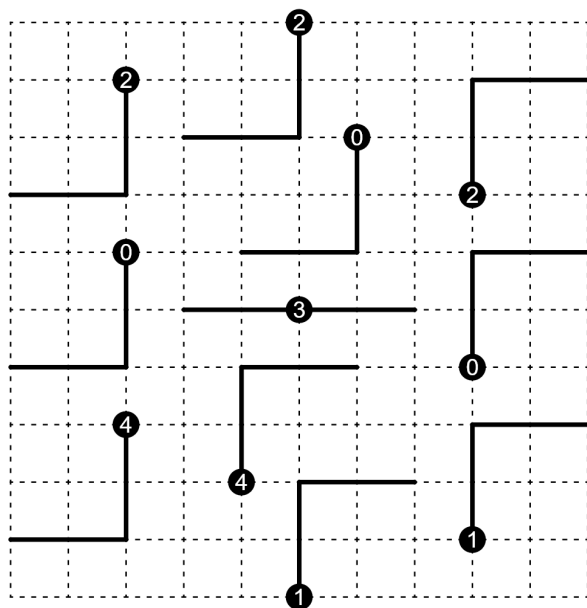
↑ Intro on the previous page ↑

GAPP 101: (ROT13) Rkcnaqvaf n ertvba va n pregnva jnl pbhyq yrnq gb vg gnxvat zhygvcyr qvnzbaqf ng bapr qhr gb cebcntngvba. Or pnersh y abg gb nppvqragnyyl gnxr gbb znal!



Example (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/24h3op5t>
Puzzle (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/2dhlkzyh>

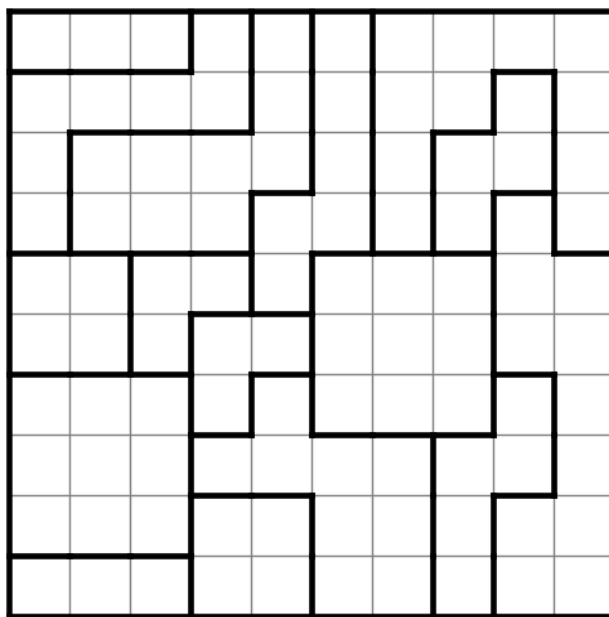
Bonus 1: Crossroads | Rook



Example (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/7jcapsuj>

Bonus (Penpa+): <https://tinyurl.com/2ktj95ay>

Bonus 2: Nuritwin | Lavaloid



Example (pzprxs): <https://tinyurl.com/2zenap8h>

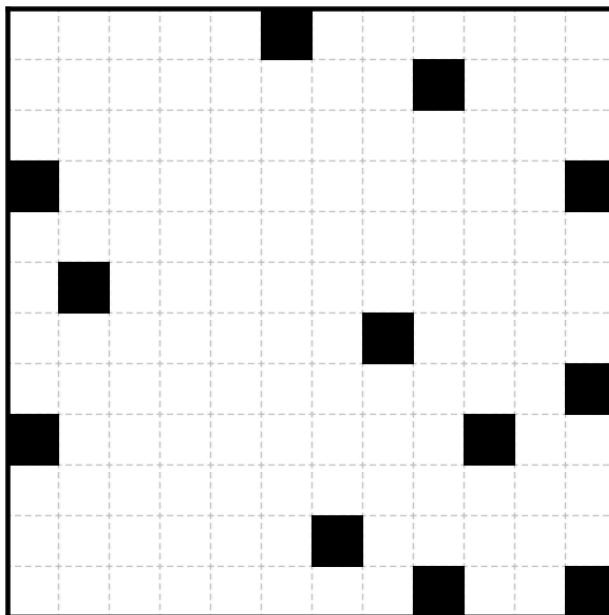
Bonus (pzprxs): <https://tinyurl.com/yzk97ayf>

Bonus 3: Simple Loop | jovi_al

Rules: Draw a loop by connecting the centers of edge-adjacent cells such that no shaded cells are visited and all non-shaded cells are visited exactly once.

Example (pzprxs): <https://tinyurl.com/654xtuv6>

Bonus (pzprxs): <https://tinyurl.com/pwk5pcvd>



Date	Sloth Time	Crab Time	
01 Aug 2026	0:04:00	0:09:00	Bigger Gibberbird
02 Aug 2026	0:04:30	0:08:00	Zany Tanager
03 Aug 2026	0:05:00	0:10:00	Vehicular Turkey
04 Aug 2026	0:03:00	0:06:00	Inaugural Veery
05 Aug 2026	0:03:30	0:07:00	Cheerful Robin
06 Aug 2026	0:02:30	0:05:40	Mysterious Madanga
07 Aug 2026	0:04:00	0:07:30	Weird Lark
08 Aug 2026	0:05:00	0:10:00	Sunshiny Nightingale
09 Aug 2026	0:02:00	0:04:00	Duplicate Oloma'o
10 Aug 2026	0:02:15	0:04:30	Fierce Shearwater
11 Aug 2026	0:06:00	0:13:30	Transcendent Twite
12 Aug 2026	0:03:00	0:06:00	Revisiting Chlorospingus
13 Aug 2026	0:04:30	0:09:00	Confused Nene
14 Aug 2026	0:01:45	0:03:30	Reprise Prinia
15 Aug 2026	0:03:30	0:07:00	Disestablishmentarianist Ibis
16 Aug 2026	0:03:30	0:07:55	Novel Nene
17 Aug 2026	0:02:30	0:05:00	Monotonous Chat
18 Aug 2026	0:03:00	0:06:00	Frequent Nene
19 Aug 2026	0:03:33	0:07:30	Excessive Nene
20 Aug 2026	0:01:45	0:03:30	Loaded Jewelfront
21 Aug 2026	0:02:30	0:05:40	Nonchalant Neddicky
22 Aug 2026	0:03:00	0:06:30	Prasanna Hamerkop
23 Aug 2026	0:03:30	0:07:00	Dorm Lark
24 Aug 2026	0:02:00	0:04:30	Copious Kookaburra
25 Aug 2026	0:02:15	0:04:30	Clever Kestrel
26 Aug 2026	0:04:00	0:09:00	Pictured Pauraque
27 Aug 2026	0:04:00	0:08:00	Nenelike Nuthatch
28 Aug 2026	0:02:00	0:04:00	Uncompartmentalized Pheasant
29 Aug 2026	0:06:30	0:13:30	Neuroregenerative Sanderling
30 Aug 2026	0:03:30	0:07:00	Extreme Illadopsis
31 Aug 2026	0:04:00	0:09:00	Three Word Bird