For Grown-Ups: Answers & Little Hints

No need to print this page. Peek here to check an answer or help your child get started. Try the little hint before sharing the answer.

AGE 2.5-3 More pebbles

Little hint: Touch a pebble on each raft as a pair. Keep matching. Does anything have no partner?

Answer: The right-hand sun box: the raft beside the gecko has 3 pebbles; the left raft has 2.

AGE 4 Equal groups

Little hint: Match each pebble on one raft with a pebble on the other. Look for any without a partner.

Answer: The middle equals-sign box. There are 4 pebbles on each raft.

Why: When every pebble has a partner and none are left over, the groups are equal.

AGE 5 Fewer pebbles

Little hint: Match a small pebble with a big pebble. Which group runs out first?

Answer: The right-hand sun box. The right raft has 4 large pebbles; the left has 5 small ones.

Why: Size does not change how many pebbles there are.

AGES 6-7 Two related tasks

1. How many pebbles have no partner?

Little hint: Trace pairs with a finger, one pebble from each raft. Look for pebbles you cannot pair.

Answer: 2 pebbles on the left raft have no partner: 6 - 4 = 2.

2. How many must move left to right to make equal groups?

Little hint: Use your fingers to track a trial move, then compare both groups again.

Answer: Move 1 pebble from left to right. Both rafts then have 5: 6 - 1 = 4 + 1.

Why: A move changes both groups: one loses pebbles while the other gains them.

Support without taking over

Pointing or speaking can show understanding when writing is difficult. On the oldest card, numbers or dots are valid. Different pairings are fine; use each pebble in at most one pair. Coloring has no single correct color scheme.