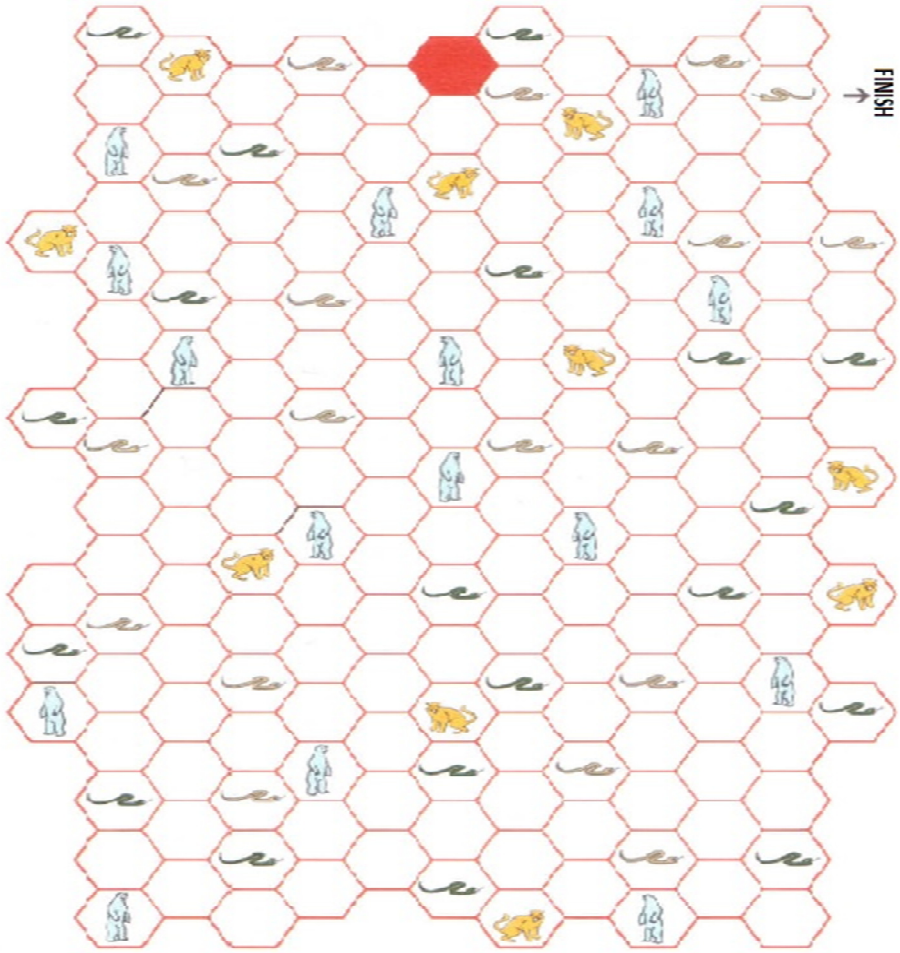
Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Mathematics Problem of the Week

Problem number 275
Posted Monday February 1, 2016
Submit by noon, Monday February 8, 2016

Park Ranger

A park ranger is trying to collect as many rattle snakes as possible without getting killed or maimed by them or other wild creatures. The wildcats have been known to eat intruders who step into their sector and the bears are famous for hugging their victims to death. The bears and the wildcats have scent marked one segment next to the one they stand on, but the ranger has no way of knowing which one. The ranger knows that he is not allowed to go back over his tracks. If he starts on the shaded sector and finishes on the snake facing the other way find the maximum number of snakes he is able to catch on this journey.



Submit your solution by

- emailing it to MathProblem@kpu.ca
- putting it in the MPOW box in the Math Assistance Centre on the Surrey campus (library, main floor)
- putting it in the MPOW box in The Learning Centre on the Richmond campus (located in the library)
- giving it to Tariq Nuruddin (Surrey A3670)

Be sure to include your name. In order to be eligible for the prize, KPU students should also include their student numbers. Winners names will be posted on the Problem of the Week web page. You can have the Problem of the Week emailed to you each week. Just go to the website and sign up.

Web site: http://www.kpu.ca/mathematics-problem-week .