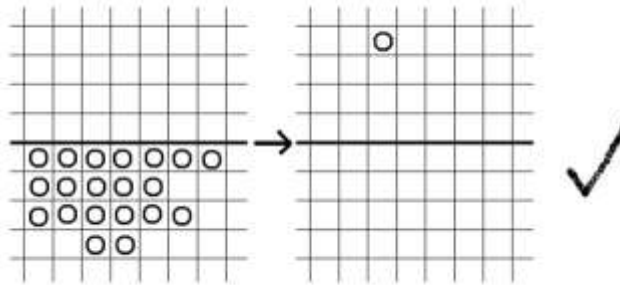


MORE WITHOUT WORDS

Mathematical Puzzles to Confound and Delight

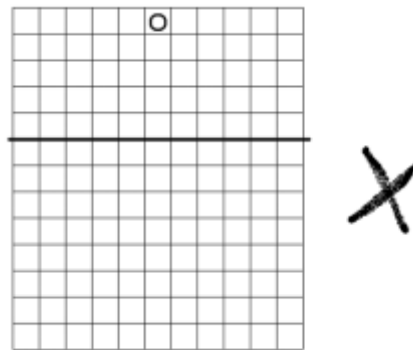


MWW 32: SOLUTION



It is possible to play the leapfrog game and end up with a penny four places across the horizontal line. (I haven't drawn the solution details here, but try the game with pennies set up in the configuration shown. With trial and error you will stumble across the solution.)

Mathematicians have proven that there is no configuration of pennies of any size (below the horizontal line) that will allow one to get a penny five places across the line.



This is surprising. The proof is a little complicated and can be found in my book *SOLVE THIS!* at www.maa.org/publications/ebooks/solve-this .