



PUZZLING CARTOON

- HELEN'S POTS -



Educational Goals

- ❖ Develop logic
- ❖ Highlight the playful potential of mathematics
- ❖ Exploit the different senses of addition and subtraction

Key Features of the Targeted Competency

- ❖ To define the elements of the mathematical situation
- ❖ To mobilize and apply concepts and processes appropriate to the given situation
- ❖ To justify actions or statements by referring to mathematical concepts and processes

Concept Used

- ❖ Arithmetic (addition and subtraction)

Materials

- ❖ Video of the puzzle
- ❖ Sheets of paper
- ❖ Pencils
- ❖ Written copies of the puzzle (optional)

Targeted Academic Levels
Grades 3 to 6

Mathematical Field Concerned



Suggested Teaching Formula



Time Required
Approximately 25 minutes



SUGGESTED PROCESS



Step 1: Introduction (3 minutes)

Present the video of the puzzle a first time (www.amazingmaths.ulaval.ca).

A written version of the puzzle is available via the Explanation Sheet. If you believe it is necessary, you can project it or distribute copies to your students.

Present the video a second time to allow the students to thoroughly understand the information.

Step 2: Finding the solution (17 minutes)

Place the students in pairs so they can try to find the solution. Encourage the students to write down all the elements of information given by the affirmations.

You may guide the students by drawing their attention towards the size difference between the two pots and the gap between the water quantities they contain. You may then suggest to them to transfer the water from a pot to the other, using the size difference to calculate the number of litres of water.

Step 3: Reveal the solution (5 minutes)

Refer to the Explanation Sheet for the puzzle “Helen’s Pots”.