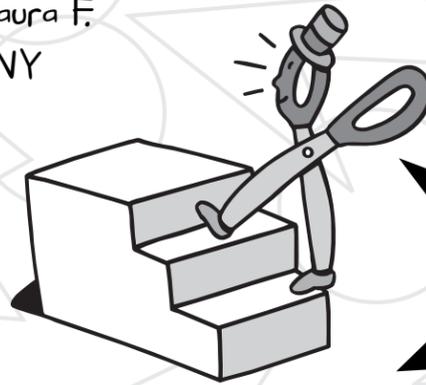


# Paper Puzzle

Sent in by Laura F.  
of Flushing, NY



Try It  
Out!

**How can you make two equal rows from eight different paper strips?**

## What You Need

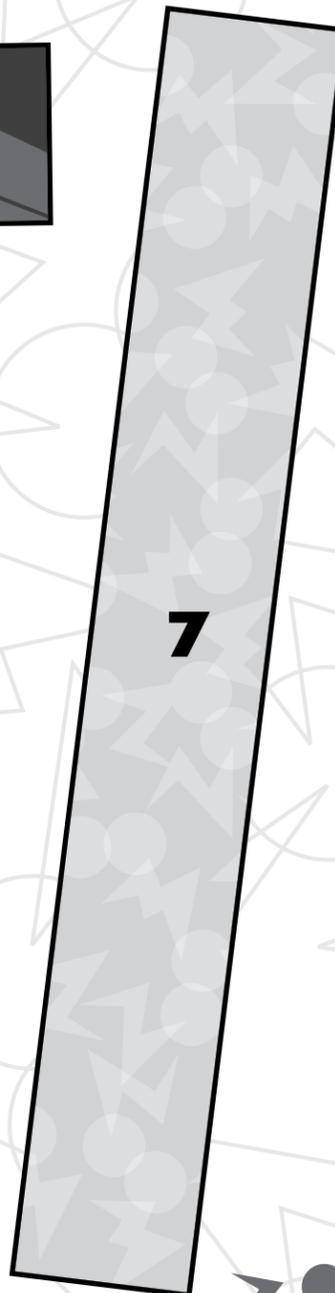
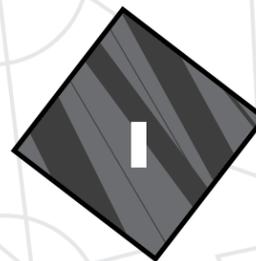
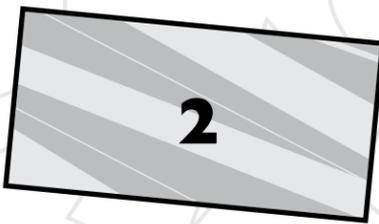
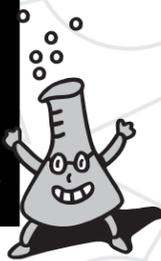
- scissors
- this activity sheet

**1 Cut out** the numbered strips on this sheet. Each number represents how many **inches** long the strip is.

**2 Try to arrange** all eight strips so that you have **two equal rows**.

## Science Scoop

If you put all eight paper strips into **one long row** and add them together, the total length is **36 inches**. If you **divide** this long row into **two equal rows**, you will have two rows that are **18 inches** long each. (That's because 36 divided by 2 equals 18). There are lots of ways to **arrange** the strips to make two 18-inch rows. How many ways can you think of? Do you think you can find all the possible solutions?



Now it's time for you to **experiment**. How can you make **three rows** of equal length by using all **eight strips**? How about **four rows**? How can you use all eight strips to make a **staircase** that has only three steps, with each step being one inch shorter than the step below? What other **patterns** can you make? Send your favorite patterns and solutions to ZOOM.



ZOOM is produced by WGBH Boston. Funding for ZOOM is provided by the National Science Foundation, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, and public television viewers. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

TM / © 2002 WGBH Educational Foundation

[pbskids.org/zoom](http://pbskids.org/zoom)



KIDS