

# Game Time

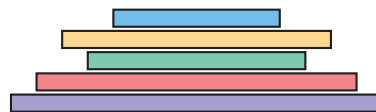
## Flapjacks

Five pancakes of different sizes are stacked in a random order. How can you get the pancakes in order from largest to smallest by flipping portions of the stack?

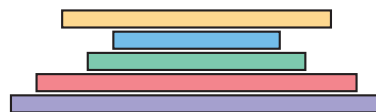
To find the answer, stack five disks of different sizes in no particular order. Arrange the disks from largest to smallest in the fewest number of moves possible. Move disks by choosing a disk and flipping over the whole stack from that disk up.



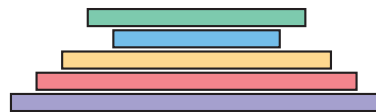
Start with a stack of five.



Flip the stack from the second disk up.



Now flip the stack from the third disk up.



Finally, flip the stack from the second disk up.



At most, it should take  $3n - 2$  turns, where  $n$  is the number of disks, to arrange the disks from largest to smallest. The five disks above were arranged in three turns, which is less than  $3(5) - 2 = 13$ . Try it on your own.

## Leaping Counters

Remove all but one of the counters from the board by jumping over each counter with another and removing the jumped counter. The game is over when you can no longer jump a counter. A perfect game would result in one counter being left in the center of the board.

A complete copy of the rules and a game board are available online.



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Game Time Extra

KEYWORD: MS8CA Games