

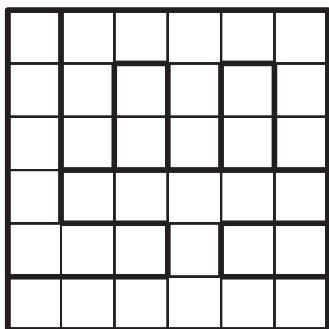
Rule

Place some stars into the grid. Stars cannot touch each other, even diagonally, and cannot be placed in black cells. Every row and column must contain the same number of stars, as given below the grid. Additionally, each region (thick outlined areas) should contain equal number of stars.

Answer Key format: For each row from top to bottom, enter the position of left most star.

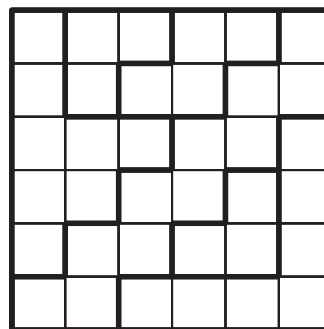
1

Introduction
3 points



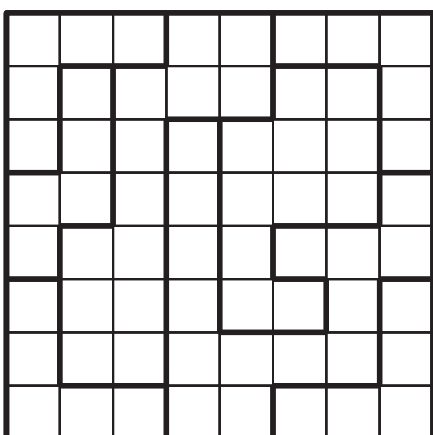
2

Introduction
3 points



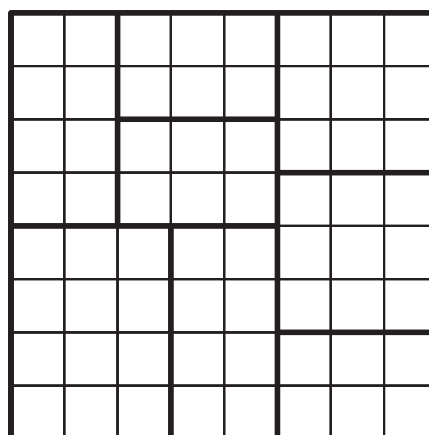
3

Intermediate
5 points



4

Intermediate
5 points



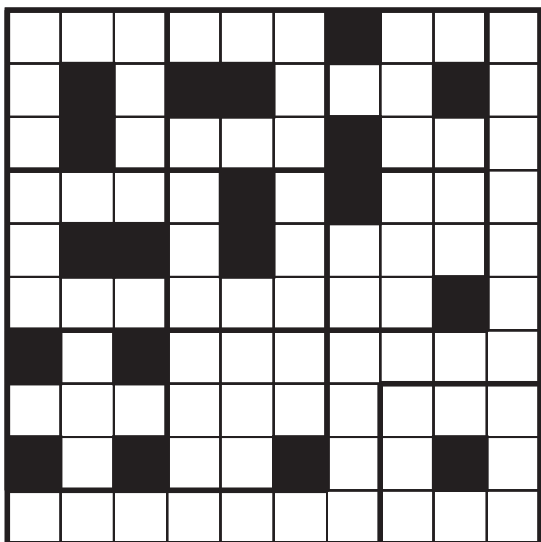
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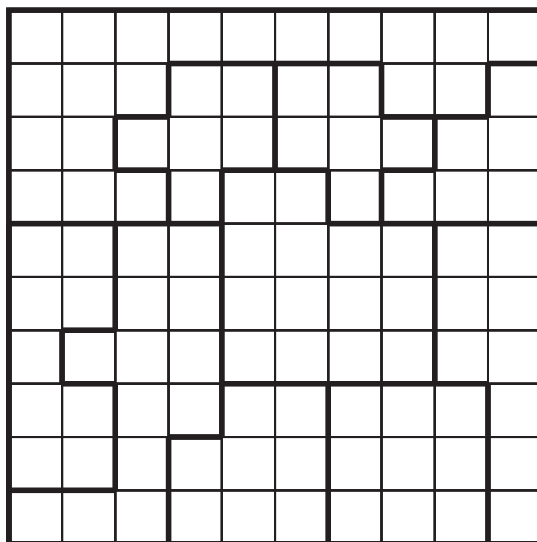
5

Challenging
9 points



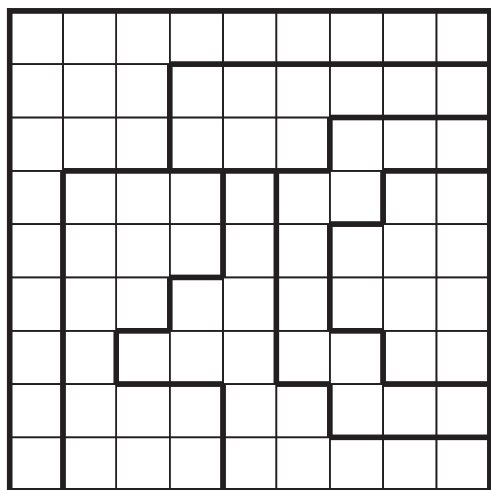
6

Challenging
9 points



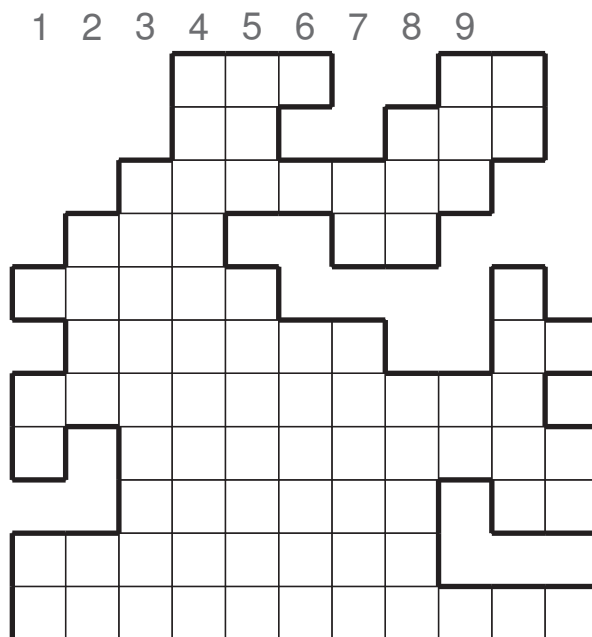
7

Exploratory
8 points



8

Exploratory
8 points



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9



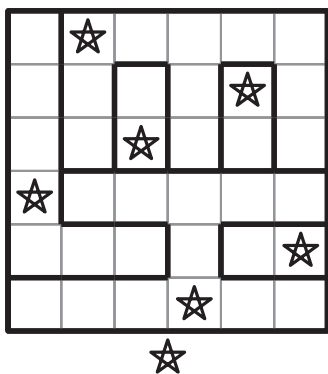
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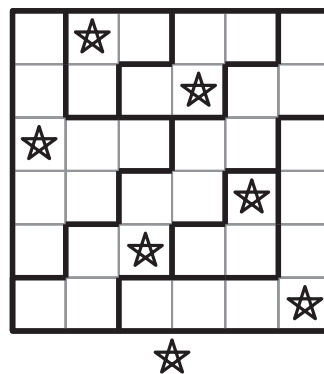
1

Introduction
3 points



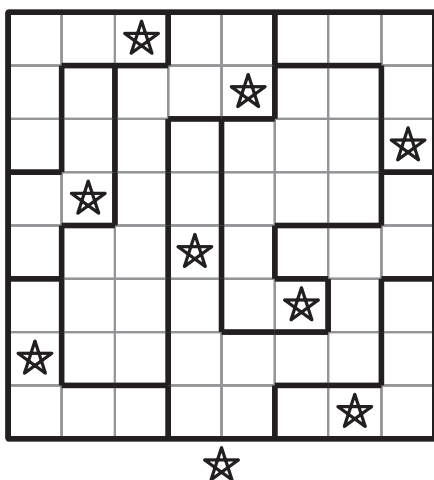
2

Introduction
3 points



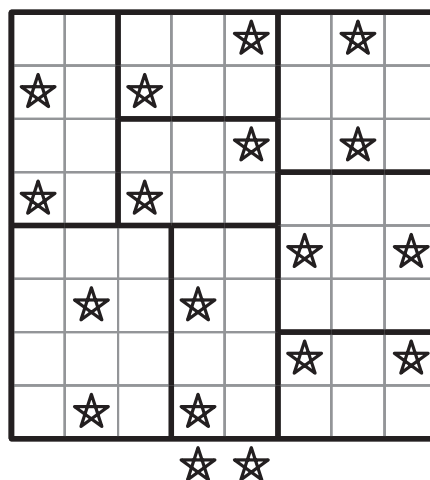
3

Intermediate
5 points



4

Intermediate
5 points



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5

Challenging
9 points

6

Challenging
9 points

7

Exploratory
8 points

8

Exploratory
8 points

A B C D E F G H I J K

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Steps for solving number 7:

1. According to rules, each row/column has 2 stars. That's 18 stars, and 6 regions, so that's 18/6 stars in each region.
2. In any 2x2 group of cells there can be only one star. This gives the image on the left below, considering blues/pinks as groups that must contain a star (because of their respective regions) and therefore considering yellows as cells that cannot contain a star.
3. This narrows down the C region to 3 groups where stars can be, which then eliminates some cells giving some stars (right image).

