

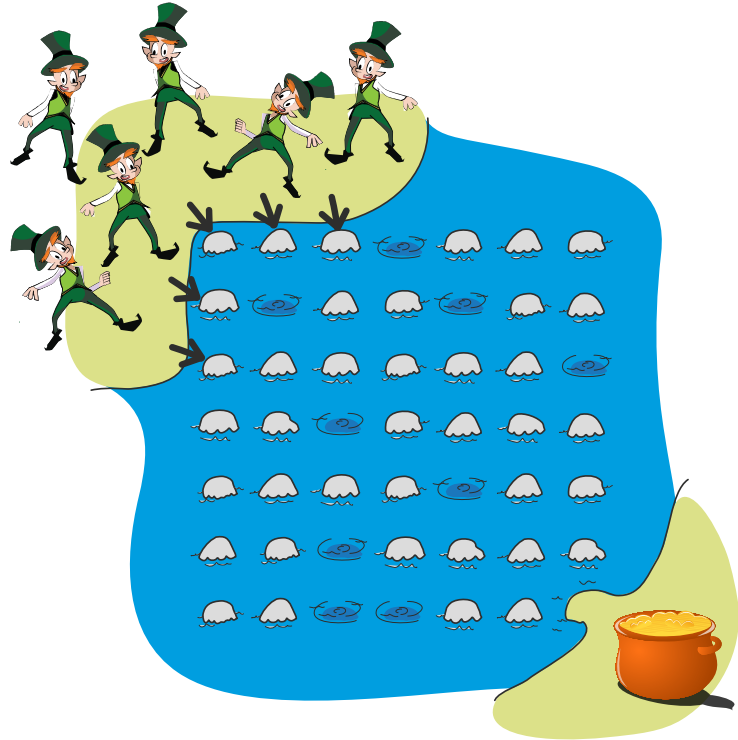


stepping stones



Six leprechauns try to cross a river to reach a pot of gold. They cross the river by jumping on stepping stones as follows:

- They can start from any starting point indicated by arrows.
- They can only jump to a neighbouring stone.
- They cannot jump diagonally.
- They cannot jump on, or over, stones that are under water.



Leprechauns can jump very fast and we can assume the time it takes to jump is zero.

After jumping, each leprechaun needs a rest, so they rest on their current stone for one minute.

Each leprechaun then jumps onto the next stone if the next stone has no leprechaun on it or if the next stone has a leprechaun who is about to leave. Otherwise, the leprechaun waits on the current stone for another minute.

QUESTION

What is the minimum number of minutes it can take for all six leprechauns to travel from the starting place to the pot of gold?

- A. 11
- B. 12
- C. 13
- D. 14

