



Lions & Wildebeests

Age range: 10+ | Participant #: Unlimited | Materials: None

As a wildfire rages through the grasslands, three lions and three wildebeest flee for their lives. To escape the inferno, they must cross over to the left bank of a crocodile-infested river.

Fortunately, there happens to be a raft nearby. It can carry up to two animals at a time, and needs at least one lion or wildebeest on board to row it across the river.

There's just one problem. If the lions ever outnumber the wildebeest on either side of the river, even for a moment, their instincts will kick in, and the results won't be pretty. That includes the animals in the boat when it's on a given side of the river.

What's the fastest way for all six animals to get across without the lions stopping for dinner?

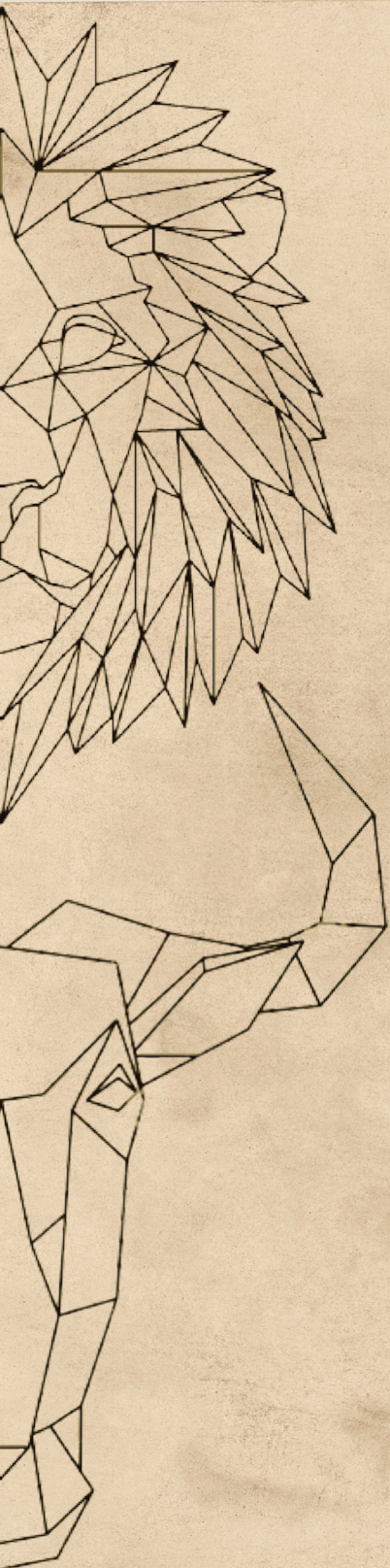
If your students are feel stuck on a problem like this, encourage them to list all the decisions they can make at each point, and the consequences each choice leads to.



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Solution

