ThinkFun

gordian's KNOT®

BRAINTEASER CHALLENGE

14+

single player

TAKE-APART SOLUTION GUIDE

History of the original Gordian Knot

The original Gordian Knot is a famous story from the eigth century B.C. Asia Minor. As the story goes, the people had lost their king and their oracle announced that the next person to ride into town pulling an oxcart would be the new ruler. That person was Gordius, who, once crowned, tied up his cart with an extremely intricate knot. Over time, legend grew that the person who solved the knot would rule the world. For 400 years the knot remained a puzzle until Alexander the Great solved it and went on to rule great kingdoms.

Since ancient times, the Gordian Knot has been synonymous with the unsolvable puzzle. Today the tradition of the world's toughest puzzle continues. Our modern version will challenge your intellect and try your patience, but who knows, once you solve Gordian's Knot®, you too may rule great kingdoms.

Gordian's KNOT

BRAINTEASER CHALLENGE

The World's Most Difficult Take-Apart Puzzle!

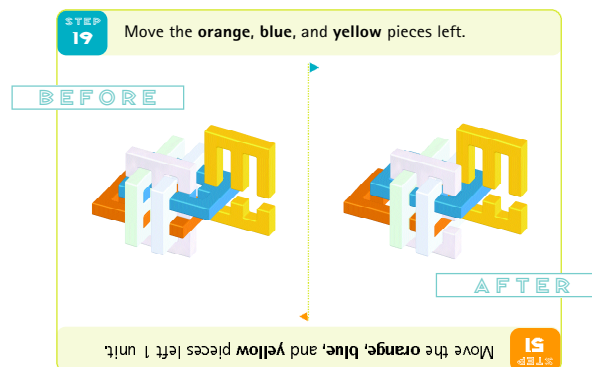COMPONENTS:

RED

YELLOW

GREEN

BLUE

PURPLE

ORANGE

This side of the guide contains step-by-step instructions on how to take the puzzle apart. If you flip the guide over, you'll see instructions on how to put it back to together.

TAKING APART GORDIAN'S KNOT®

Slide the colored pieces back and forth, moving and removing pieces as you are able. To solve the puzzle, you'll have to discover the right combination of moves in order to remove the pieces. Sometimes you'll have to move several pieces together at the same time. There are no trick moves! You'll never have to rotate, turn, or use brute force on any of the pieces.

The image opposite shows a sample set of instructions. The current step is described at the top of the page. On the left is an image of what the puzzle should look like before you perform the instruction. The right image shows what the puzzle will look like after the instruction.

STEP 19   Move the **orange**, **blue**, and **yellow** pieces left.

BEFORE

AFTER

STEP 51   Move the **orange**, **blue**, and **yellow** pieces left 1 unit.

There are six possible directions a piece can move: left, right, up, down, toward you, and away from you. (The images in this guide have been turned to the left slightly so that you can see more of the puzzle).

MOVING THE PIECES

Unless an instruction specifically says to do differently,
you should move each piece as far as it will go.
**In each image, we've highlighted only the piece (or pieces)
that move and muted all the other pieces.**

Some of the instructions will specify the number of "units"
that a puzzle piece, or set of pieces, should be moved
**(a unit = the thickness of a puzzle piece—each piece is
one unit thick, five units wide, and seven units long).**
In these cases, you need to be careful NOT to move the piece
as far as it can go, and instead be careful to stop movement
of the piece (or pieces) at the position indicated by the directions.
The picture diagram will help make this task clear.

Book design: George A. Miller

ABOUT THE INVENTOR

Gordian's Knot® was invented by Frans de Vreugd,
a Dutch puzzle inventor and originally named "Extreme Torture."
The inventor used a computer program to determine the most
difficult configuration possible for a six-piece puzzle.

ABOUT THINKFUN®

ThinkFun® is the leading creator of mind challenging games.
Since 1985, the company has produced award-winning games
such as Rush Hour®, River Crossing®, and Aha! Brainteaser
Classics™. Kids and adults alike look to ThinkFun to create
hands-on, thought-provoking games that provide hours of
fun-filled challenges. ThinkFun is committed to high-quality,
innovative games that help people of all ages develop thinking
skills through play. To learn more, please visit our website:
www.ThinkFun.com.

STEP
1

Move the **orange** piece left.
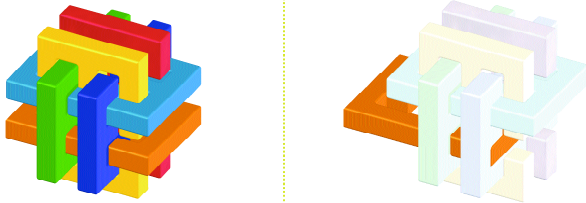
Move the **orange** piece left.

STEP
2

Move the **green** piece away from you.
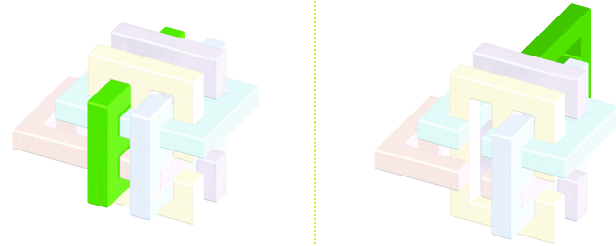
Move the **green** piece toward you.

STEP 3 Move the **orange** piece right.

STEP 4 Move the **yellow** piece down.
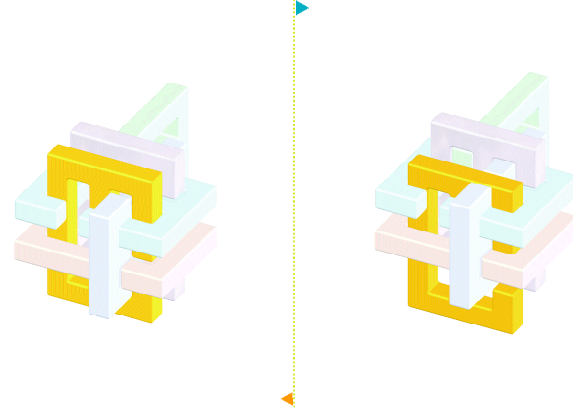
STEP 5

Move the **blue**, **orange**, and **yellow** pieces left.

STEP 6

Move the **yellow** piece up 3 units.
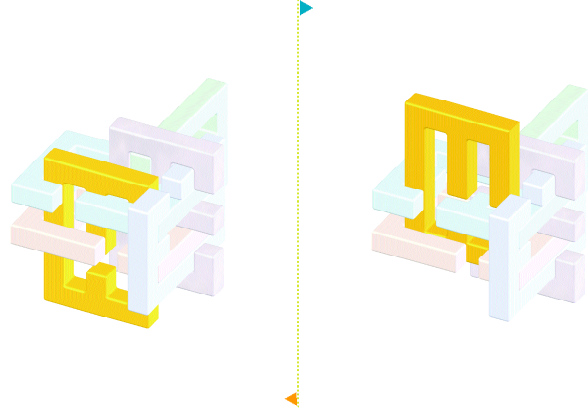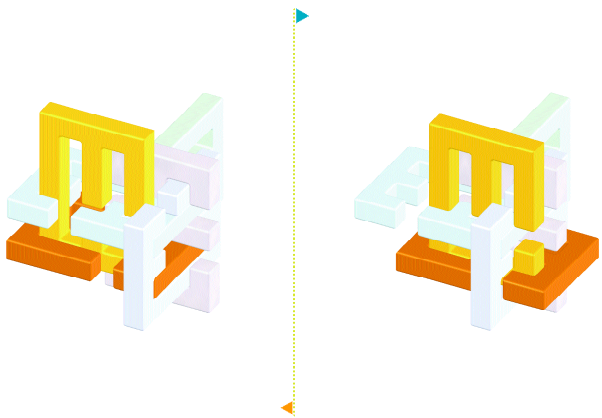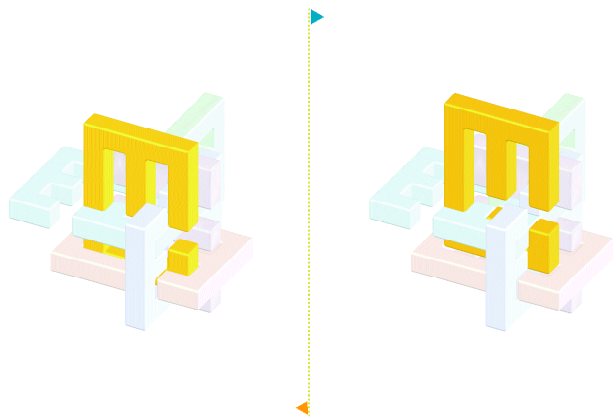
STEP 7

Move the **yellow** and **orange** pieces right.

STEP 8

Move the **yellow** piece up.
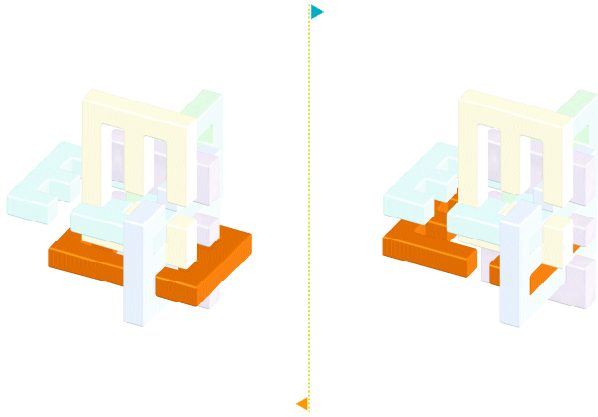
STEP 9

Move the **orange** piece left.

STEP 10

Move the **blue** and **yellow** pieces right 2 units.
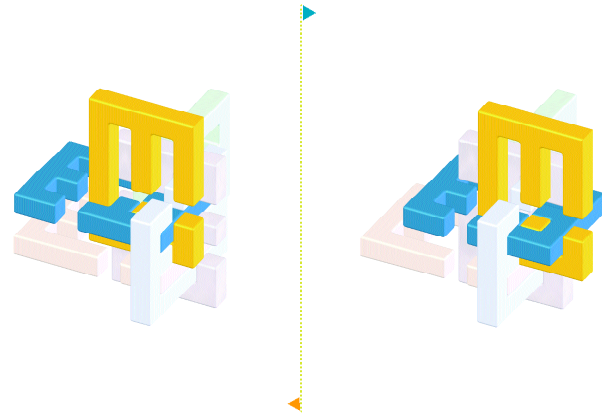
STEP 11

Move the **green** piece toward you.
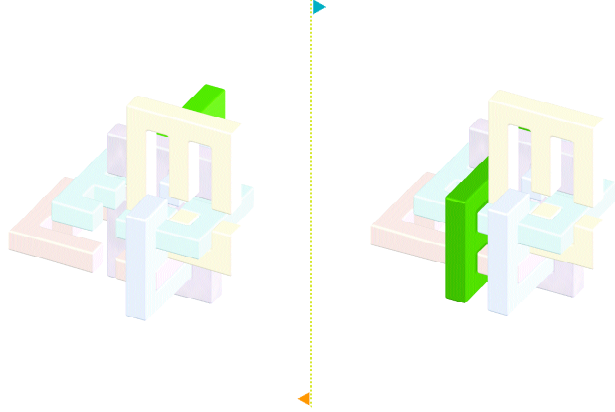
Move the **green** piece away from you 3 units.

STEP 12

Move the **blue** and **yellow** pieces right.
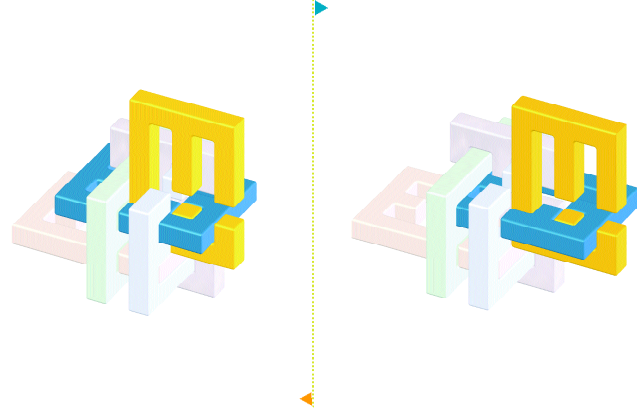
Move the **blue** and **yellow** pieces right.

STEP 13

Move the **yellow** piece down 1 unit.

STEP 57
Move the **yellow** piece down.
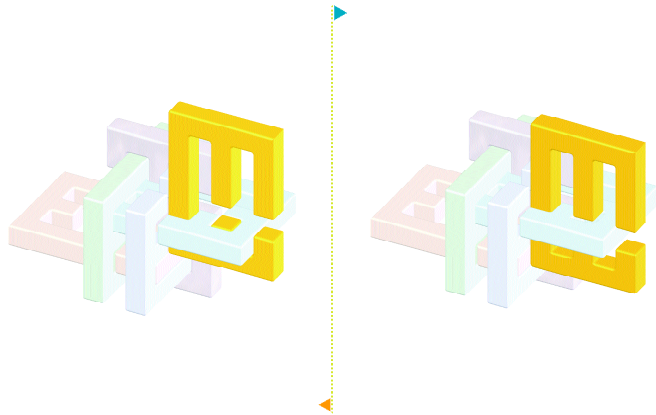
STEP 14

Move the **yellow** piece away from you.
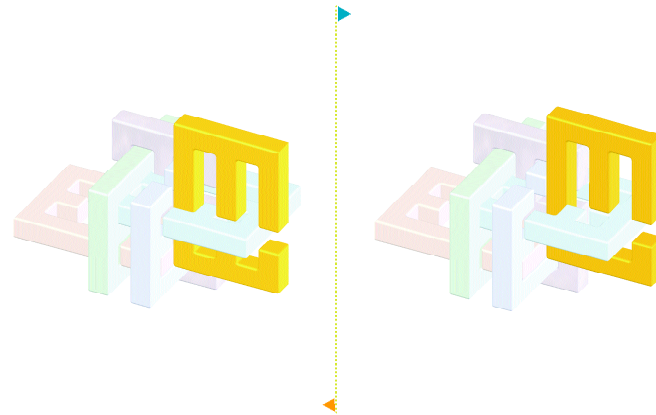
STEP 56
Move the **yellow** piece toward you.

STEP 15 Move the **orange** and **yellow** pieces right.

STEP 16 Move the **yellow** piece away from you.
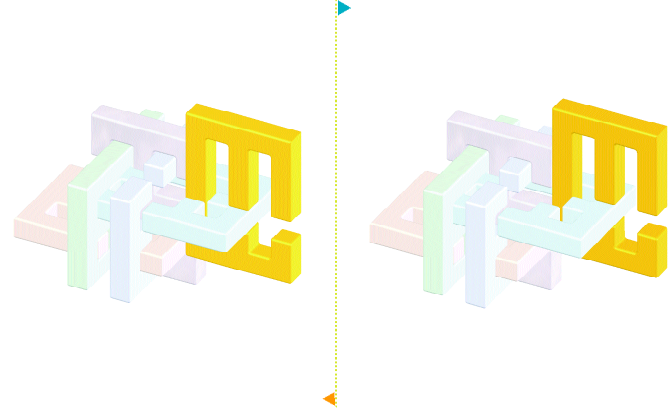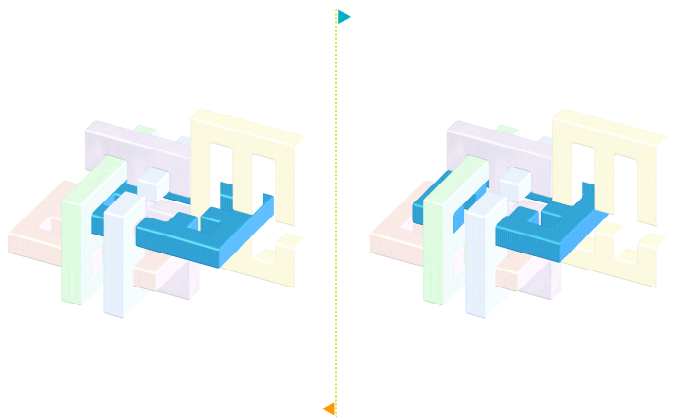
STEP 17 Move the **blue** piece left.

STEP 18 Move the **red** piece toward you.
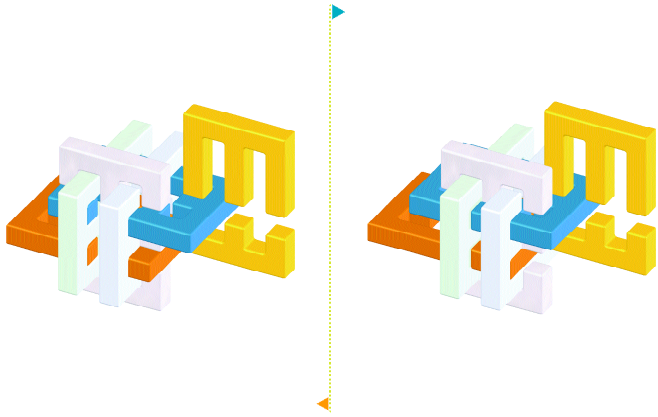
STEP 19

Move the **orange**, **blue**, and **yellow** pieces left.

STEP 20

Move the **green** piece away from you.
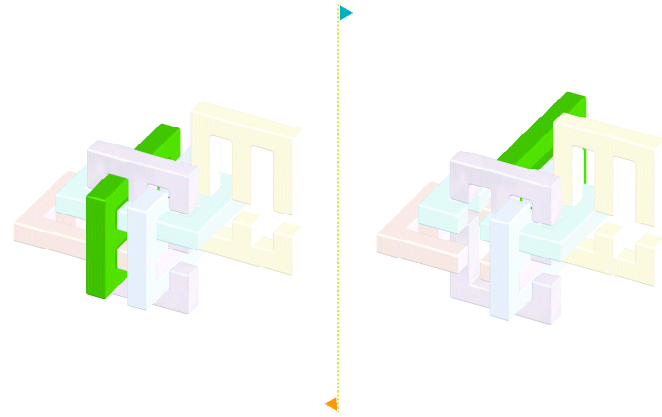
Move the **green** piece left.
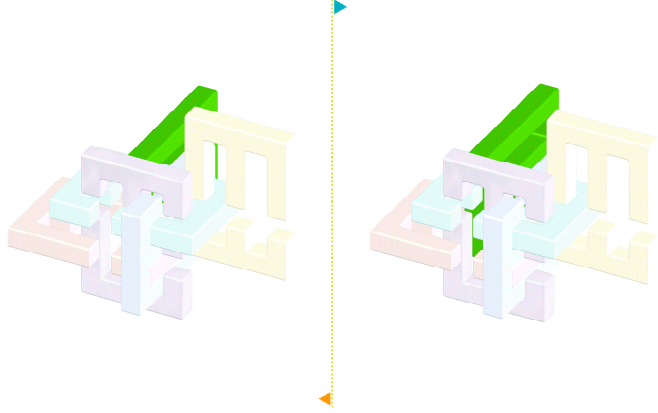
Move the **green** piece left 1 unit.

STEP
49

STEP
22

Move the **red** and **purple** pieces left.
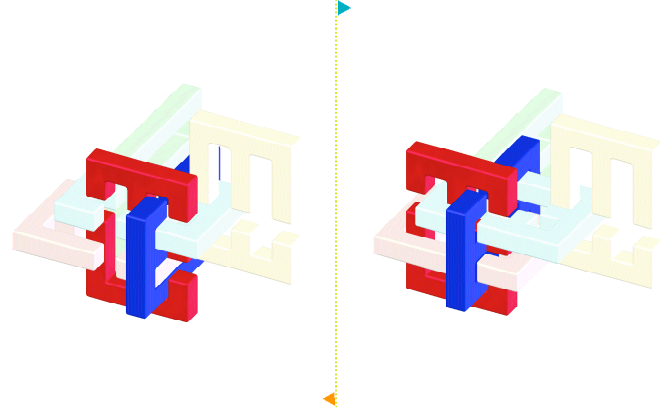
Move the **red** and **purple** pieces left.

STEP
48

STEP 23 Move the **red** piece down.
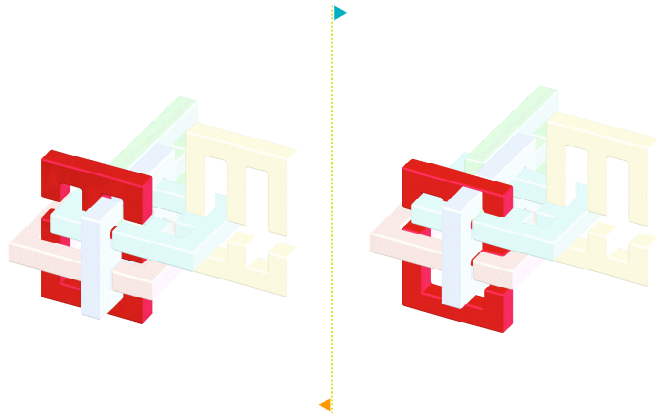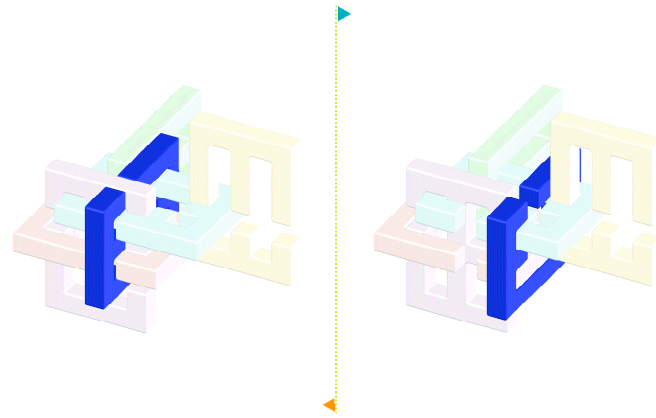
STEP 24 Move the **purple** piece right.

STEP 25
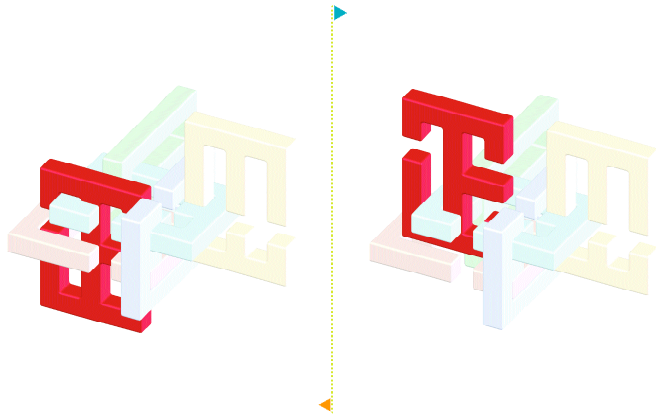
Move the **red** piece up.

STEP 26

Move the **orange** piece left 1 unit.
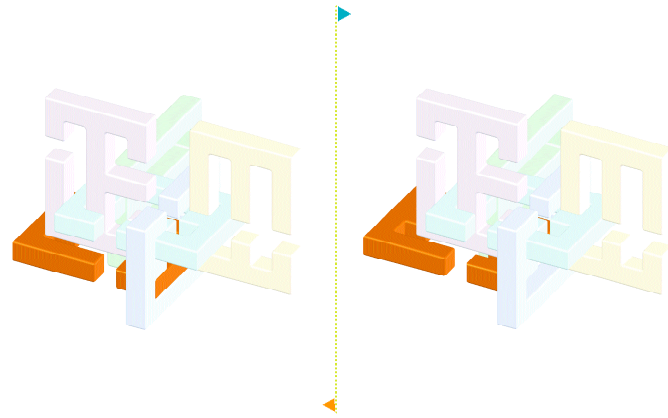
STEP 27

Move the **orange** piece away from you.
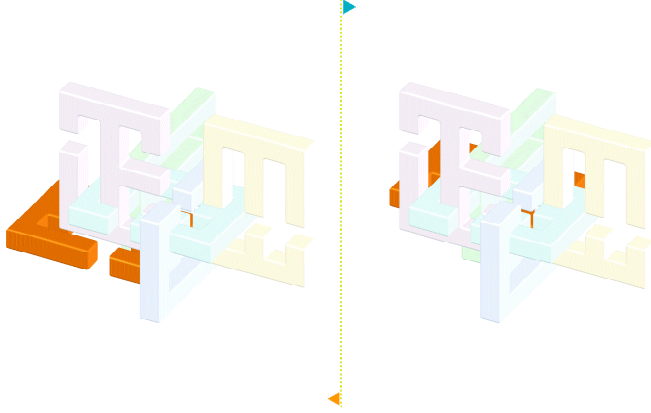
STEP 28

Move the **orange** piece left out of the puzzle.
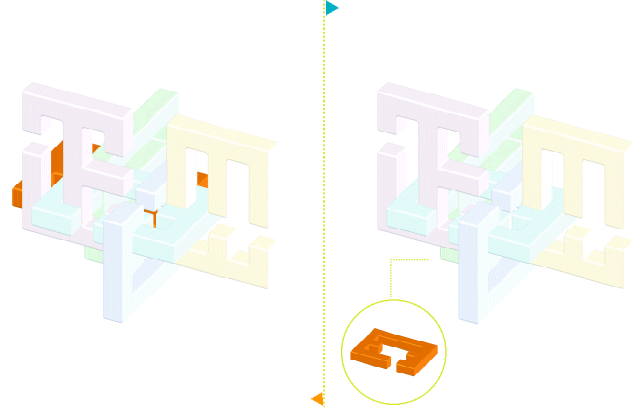
STEP 29

Move the **red** piece down.

STEP 30

Move the **purple** piece left.
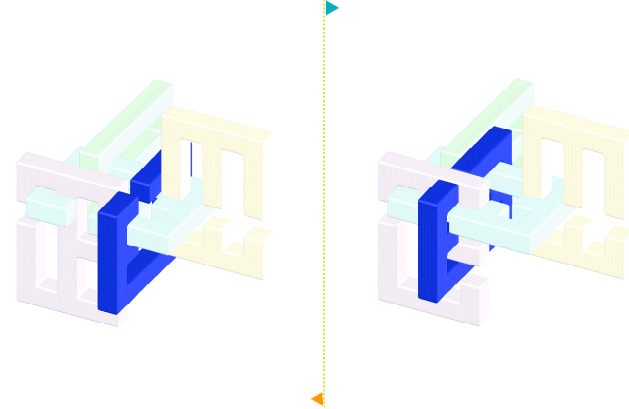
STEP 31 Move the **red** piece up.
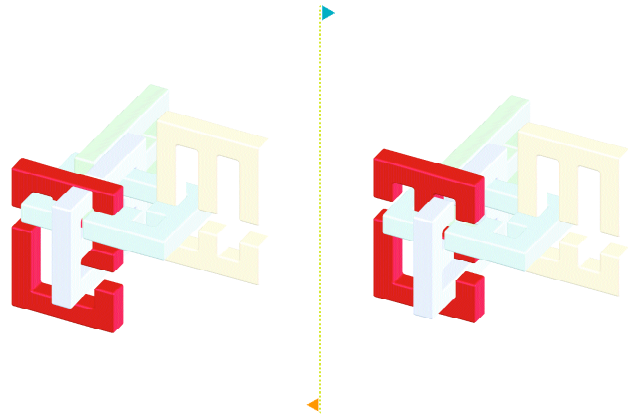
STEP 32 Move the **red** and **purple** pieces right.
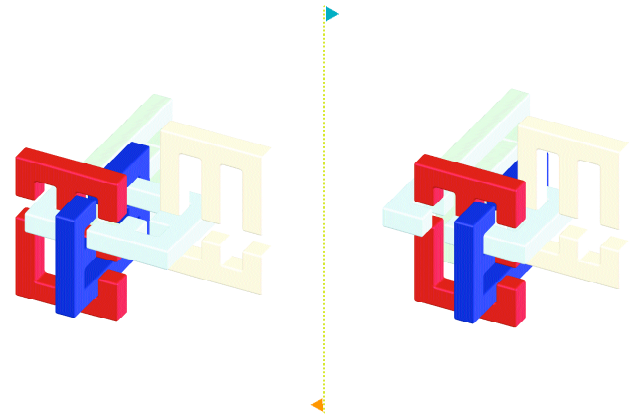
STEP 33

Move the **green** piece right 1 unit.
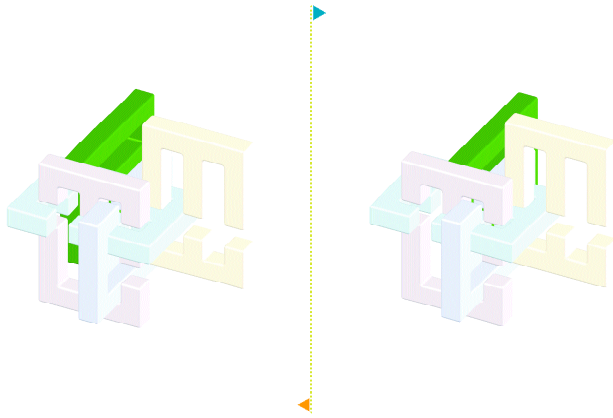
STEP 37

Move the **green** piece right.

STEP 34

Move the **green** piece toward you.
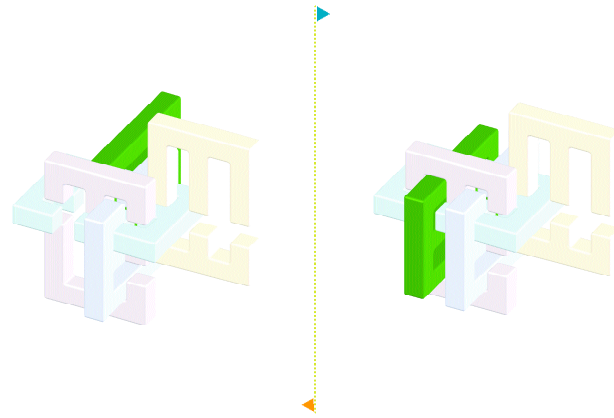
STEP 36

Move the **green** piece away from you.

STEP 35 Move the **yellow** and **blue** pieces right 1 unit.

STEP 36 Move the **red** piece away from you.

STEP 37

Move the **blue** piece right.

STEP 38

Move the **yellow** piece toward you.
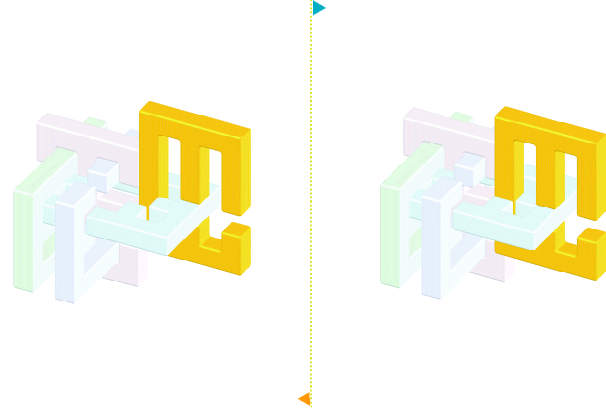
STEP 39 Move the **yellow** piece left.
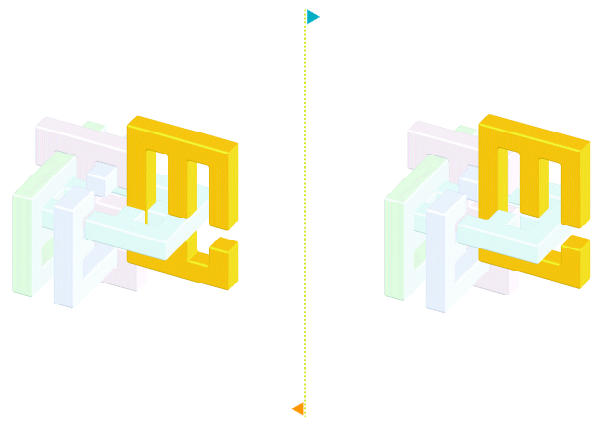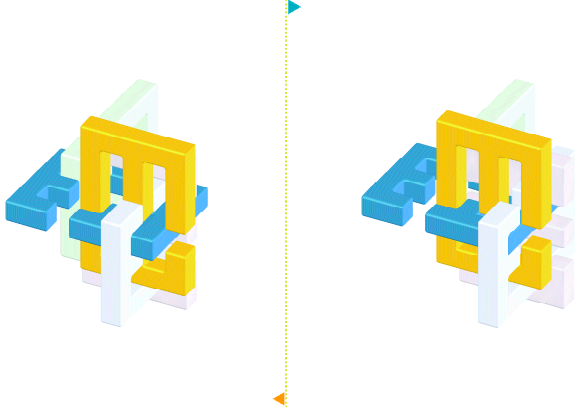
STEP 40 Move the **yellow** piece toward you.
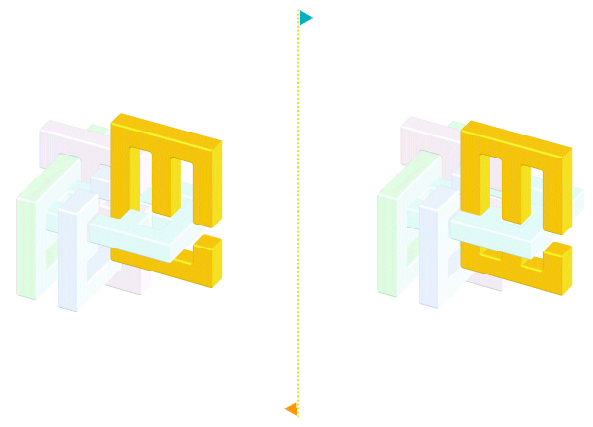
STEP 41 Move the **yellow** and **blue** pieces left.
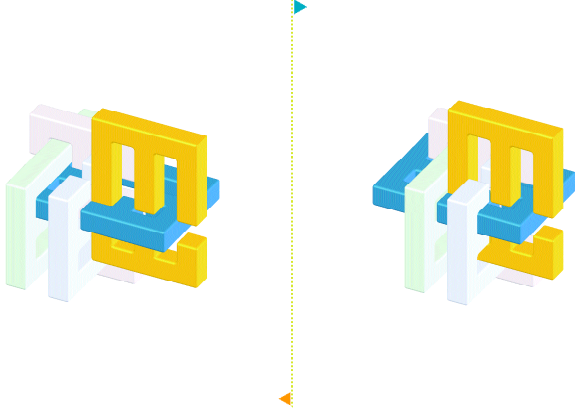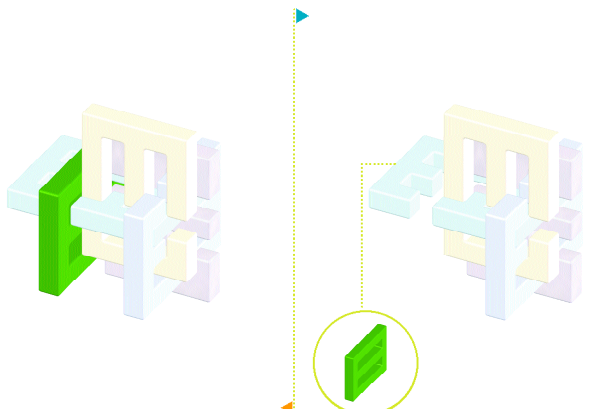
Move the **yellow** and **blue** pieces left.

STEP 42 Move the **green** piece away from you.
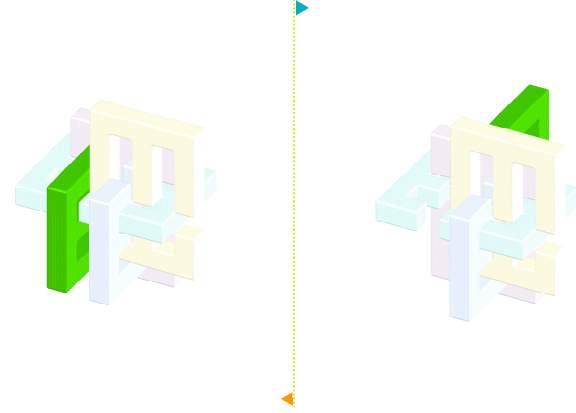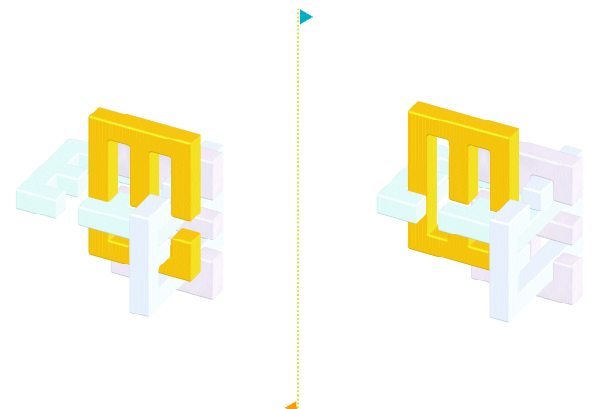
Move the **green** piece toward you.

STEP
43

Move the **yellow** and **blue** pieces left 1 unit.
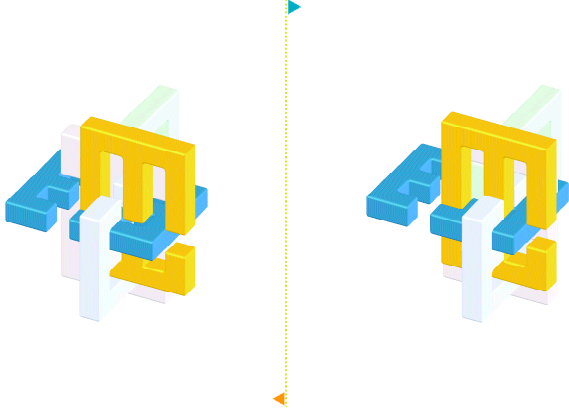
Move the **yellow** and **blue** pieces left 1 unit.

STEP
44

Move the **red** piece toward you.
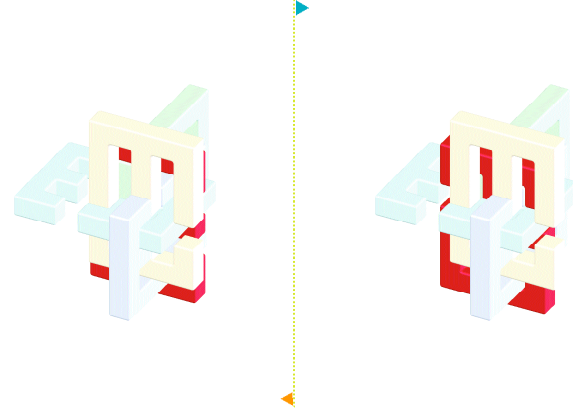
Move the **red** piece away from you.

STEP 45

Move the **green** piece left.
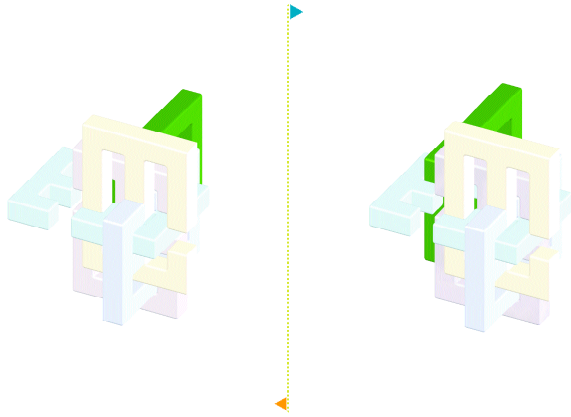
Move the **green** piece left 2 units.

STEP 46

Move the **red** piece away from you.

Move the **red** piece toward you.

STEP 47 Move the **yellow** and **blue** pieces left.

STEP 48 Move the **green** piece toward you.
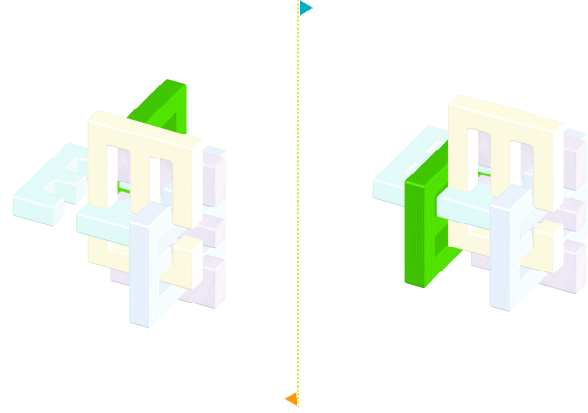
STEP 49 Move the **green** piece left out of the puzzle.

STEP 50 Move the **yellow** piece left.

STEP 51 Move the **yellow** piece down.
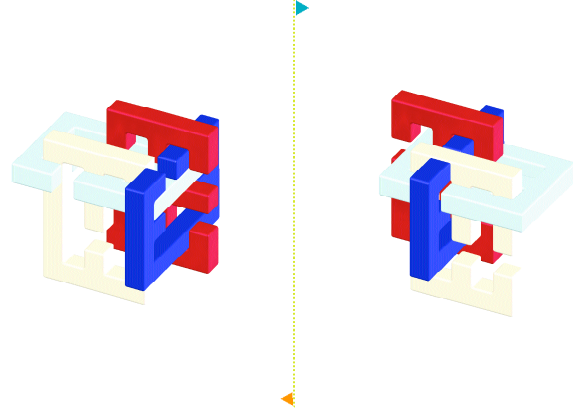
STEP 52 Move the **red** and **purple** pieces left.

STEP 53 Move the **yellow** piece up.

STEP 54 Move the **purple** piece away from you.

STEP 55 Move the **blue** piece down.

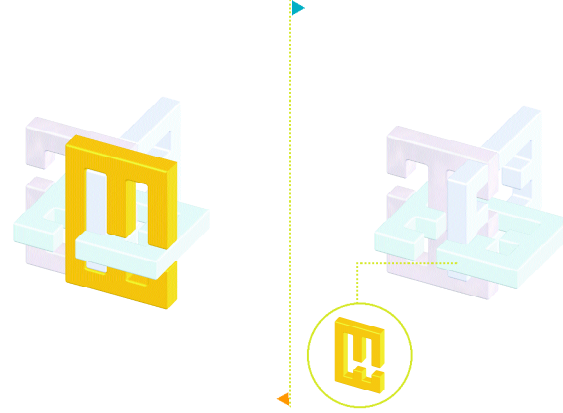**STEP 56** Move the **red** piece down.
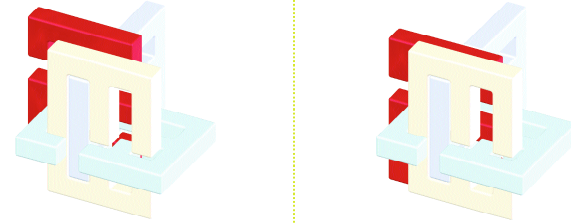
STEP
57

Move the **yellow** and **purple** pieces right.

STEP
58
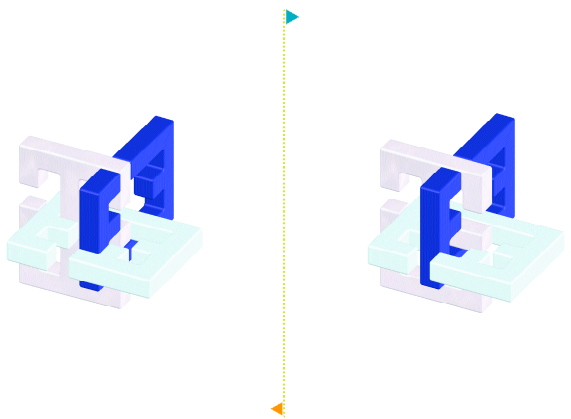
Move the **yellow** piece toward you out of the puzzle.
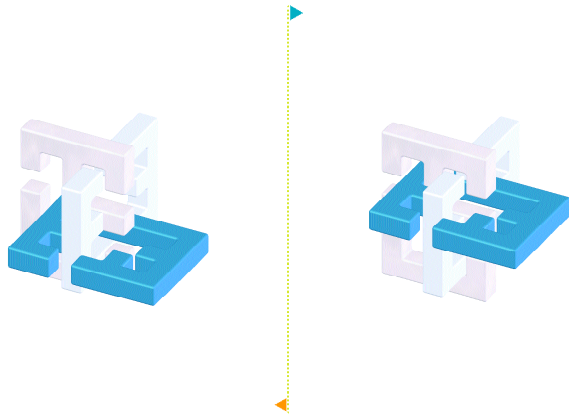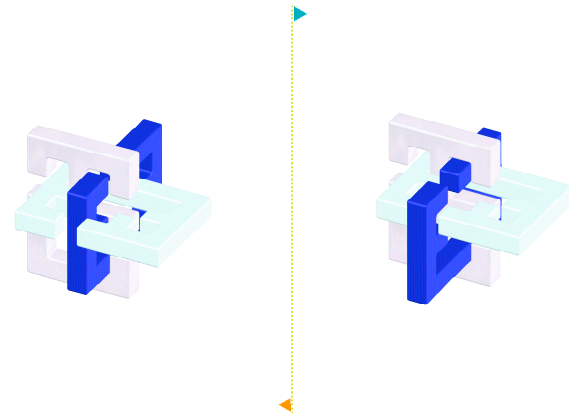
STEP 59 Move the **purple** piece left.

STEP 60 Move the **red** piece up.
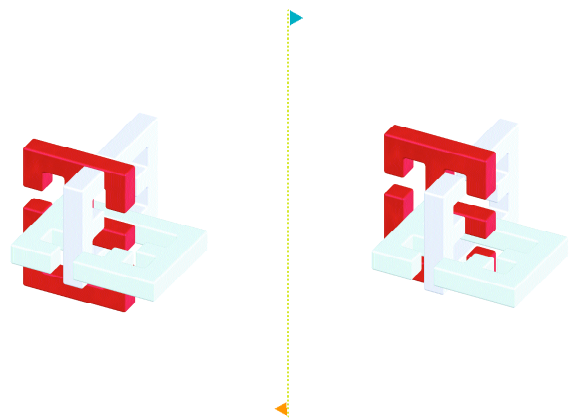
STEP 61 Move the **blue** piece up.
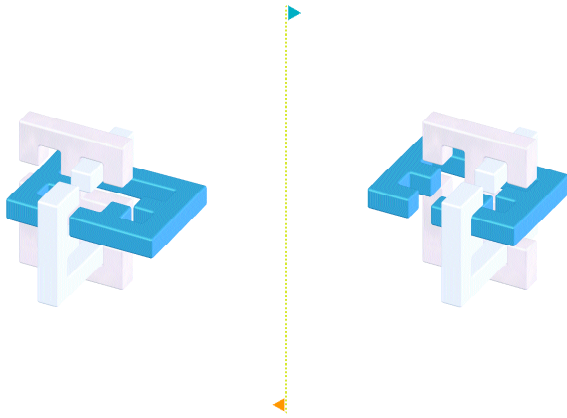
STEP 62 Move the **purple** piece toward you.

STEP 63 Move the **blue** piece left 2 units.

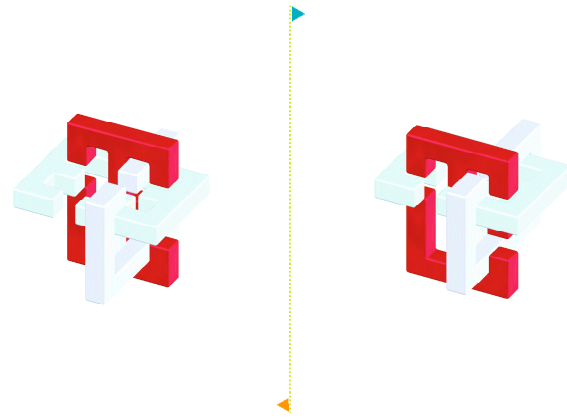**STEP 64** Move the **red** piece toward you.

STEP 65

Move the **red** piece down.

STEP 66
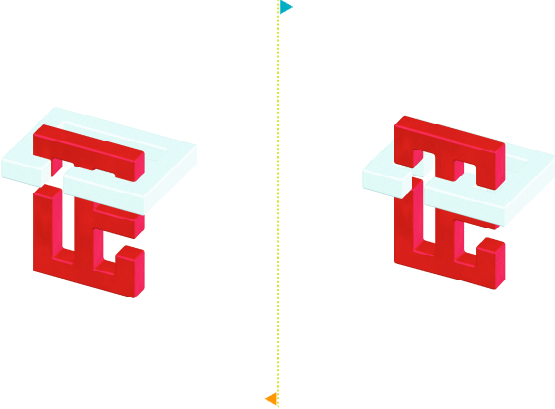
Move the **purple** piece right out of the puzzle.
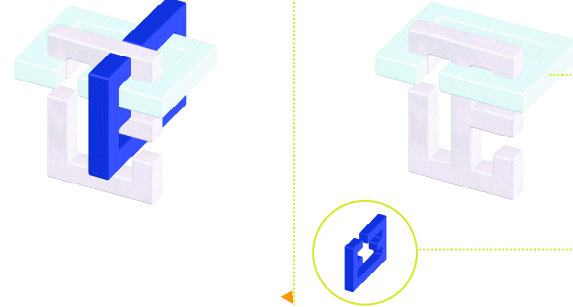
STEP 67

Move the **red** piece up.

STEP 68

Move the **red** piece left 1 unit.

STEP 69

Move the **red** piece toward you out of the puzzle.
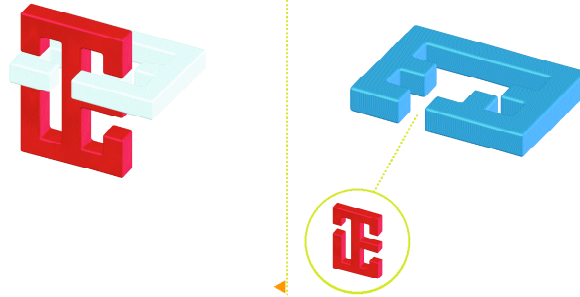
Move the **red** piece away from you 2 units into the blue piece.

PUTTING GORDIAN'S KNOT® BACK TOGETHER

Putting Gordian's Knot® back together uses the same solution sequence as does taking it apart, except you follow all the steps in reverse order.

To help you with inserting a new piece into the puzzle, we have highlighted an image of that piece in its correct orientation in the corner of the page.

EXAMPLE

gordian's KNOT®

ThinkFun
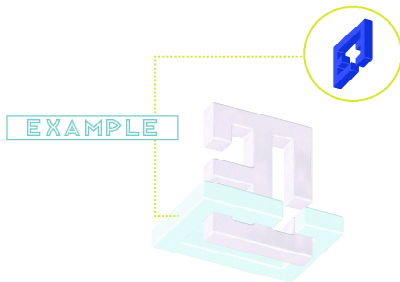
BRAINTEASER CHALLENGE

14+
single player

ASSEMBLE SOLUTION GUIDE