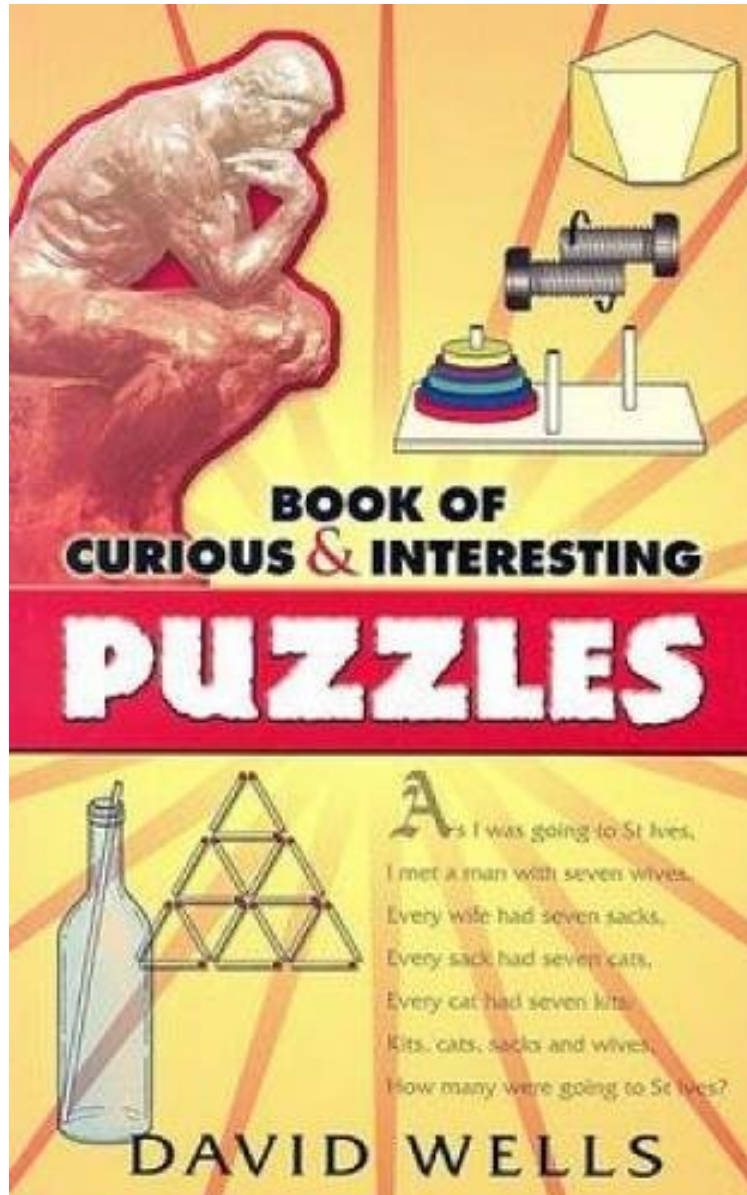


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David Wells

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David Wells : Book of Curious and Interesting Puzzles (Dover Recreational Math) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Book of Curious and Interesting Puzzles (Dover Recreational Math):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Good collection of historical puzzles By George Bell This is an "unabridged republication" of "The Penguin Book of Curious and Interesting Puzzles", which means nothing was

changed except for slight modification of the title. Half the book presents several hundred puzzles taken from various sources, in more or less chronological order. The last half of the book gives solutions to all the puzzles. Many of the puzzles seem to involve "a trick" around the interpretation of the problem. Some may be frustrated by this, but at least solutions are included, and many of the tricks are quite clever. This book teaches "outside the box" thinking! My only gripe about the book is that it is an exact copy of the previous edition. I noticed a few errors in the statement and solution to one problem in particular, and these have not been corrected.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Puzzling realities By Wj Te Molder David Wells' Book of curious interesting Puzzles is an outstanding collection of all kinds of puzzles, arithmetic, visual, plain intelligent etc. The book is interesting, because it tells you the history of a particular puzzle, beginning with the oldest ever, found at Luxor, Egypt, in 1650 BC. You can use these puzzles in a math class, but also to solve them together with friends or colleagues. I bought it to help me find a solution for picturing a four dimensional object. Everyone should have it at home for his or her children or visitors. It's great fun.

"Of immense interest to those who enjoy recreational maths and puzzles . . . even the most hardened puzzler will find something new." Mathematical Gazette

Puzzles are as old as history itself, following an arc like that of technology: centuries of slow progress, followed by rapid expansion in the 1800s, and an explosion of activity in the twentieth century. This collection by bestselling author David Wells, a Cambridge math scholar and teacher, follows that pattern. Its first part is devoted to puzzles from ancient Egypt and Babylon and subsequent sources, featuring those devised by Lewis Carroll, Eduard Lucas, Sam Loyd, and other master puzzlers of the Victorian era. The second part demonstrates the tremendous variety of twentieth-century puzzles. More than 560 puzzles are included, from the "mind sharpeners" of a medieval monk to the eighteenth-century Ladies' Diary, the Hindu Bhakshali manuscript, and riddles and popular rhymes. None requires any mathematics beyond the most elementary algebra and geometry and few require even that. Complete answers appear at the end.