

Task: Connecting Socks and Pigeons

Ask students:

1. What pigeons have to do with socks?
2. What are the analogues of pigeons in the drawer of socks problem?
[Answer: the socks.]
3. What are the analogues of the pigeonholes?
[Answer: the colors of socks.]
4. How about the three-footed monster. What was different in that case?
[Answer: we wanted to know how soon three pigeons would have to be placed in a pigeonhole.]
5. Think of other examples of pigeonholes.
For example, if a block of chocolate with fifteen pieces is shared between seven students, at least one student has to get three pieces of chocolate!