

[Advent of Code](#)
[\[About\]](#)
[\[Events\]](#)
[\[Shop\]](#)
[\[Settings\]](#)
[\[Log Out\]](#)
 josianed 5★
 0xfffff2023
 [\[Calendar\]](#)
[\[AoC++\]](#)
[\[Sponsors\]](#)
[\[Leaderboard\]](#)
[\[Stats\]](#)

--- Day 8: Haunted Wasteland ---

You're still riding a camel across Desert Island when you spot a sandstorm quickly approaching. When you turn to warn the Elf, she disappears before your eyes! To be fair, she had just finished warning you about ghosts a few minutes ago.

One of the camel's pouches is labeled "maps" - sure enough, it's full of documents (your puzzle input) about how to navigate the desert. At least, you're pretty sure that's what they are; one of the documents contains a list of left/right instructions, and the rest of the documents seem to describe some kind of network of labeled nodes.

It seems like you're meant to use the left/right instructions to navigate the network. Perhaps if you have the camel follow the same instructions, you can escape the haunted wasteland!

After examining the maps for a bit, two nodes stick out: `AAA` and `ZZZ`. You feel like `AAA` is where you are now, and you have to follow the left/right instructions until you reach `ZZZ`.

This format defines each node of the network individually. For example:

```
RL
AAA = (BBB, CCC)
BBB = (DDD, EEE)
CCC = (ZZZ, GGG)
DDD = (DDD, DDD)
EEE = (EEE, EEE)
GGG = (GGG, GGG)
ZZZ = (ZZZ, ZZZ)
```

Starting with `AAA`, you need to look up the next element based on the next left/right instruction in your input. In this example, start with `AAA` and go right (`R`) by choosing the right element of `AAA`, `CCC`. Then, `L` means to choose the left element of `CCC`, `ZZZ`. By following the left/right instructions, you reach `ZZZ` in `2` steps.

Of course, you might not find `ZZZ` right away. If you run out of left/right instructions, repeat the whole sequence of instructions as necessary: `RL` really means `RLRLRLRLRLRLRL...` and so on. For example, here is a situation that takes `6` steps to reach `ZZZ`:

```
LLR
AAA = (BBB, BBB)
BBB = (AAA, ZZZ)
ZZZ = (ZZZ, ZZZ)
```

Starting at `AAA`, follow the left/right instructions. How many steps are required to reach `ZZZ`?

To begin, [get your puzzle input](#).

Answer: [\[Submit\]](#)

You can also [\[Share\]](#) this puzzle.

Our [sponsors](#) help make Advent of Code possible:

PwC UK - Human-led, tech-powered it all adds up to the New Equation. Become a part of PwC's Talent Community and join our growing community of solvers.