Roll a Cookie Tray

Rows and Columns

Daniela lays the cookies down in a neat row, five across. Then another row beneath it. Then another, and one more, until the tray is covered and the rows have squared themselves into a tidy rectangle.

There are five in a row, and four rows in all. Five, counted four times over. Twenty cookies, read straight off the tray without touching a single one.

How to play

1. Roll two dice. The first die is how many rows. The second is how many cookies in each row.
2. Color that rectangle on one of the trays on the next page, row by row, the way Daniela lined up her cookies.
3. Read it both ways, across and down, then write it: 3 rows of 6 is 3 × 6 = 18.

Watch for

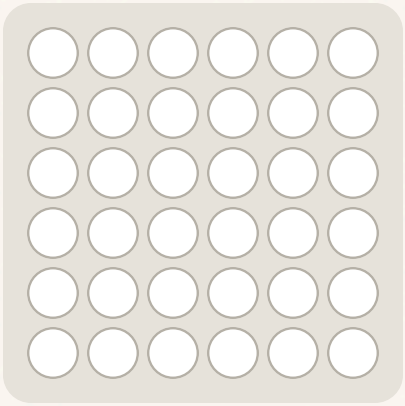
The most common slip is counting the edges instead of the whole. A child sees three rows and six columns, adds them, and gets nine. If that happens, point to a single row and ask how many are in it, then ask how many rows there are. Six, three times over.

Around the house

You don't need a baking tray to find one. Muffin tins, egg cartons, a window with square panes, the tiles on the kitchen floor: they're all arrays waiting to be noticed.

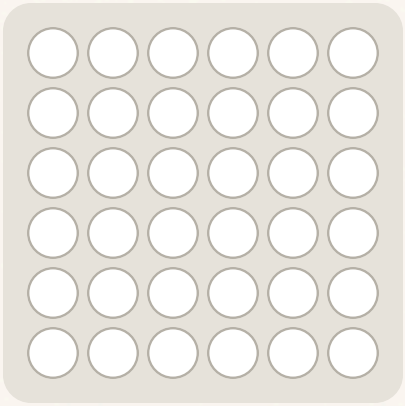
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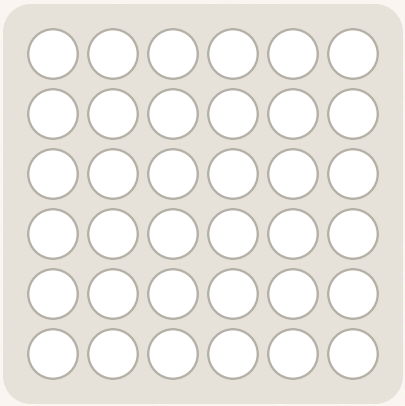
____ rows of ____

____ × ____ = ____



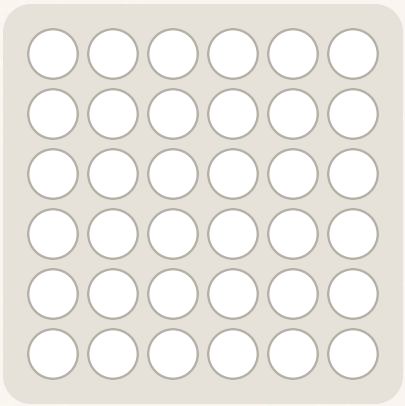
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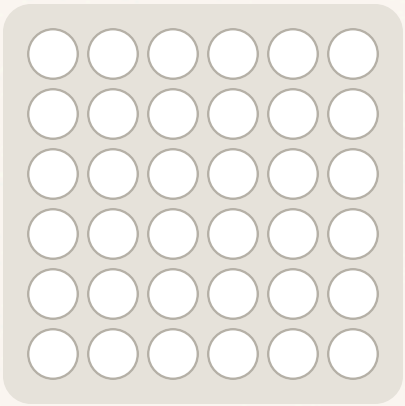
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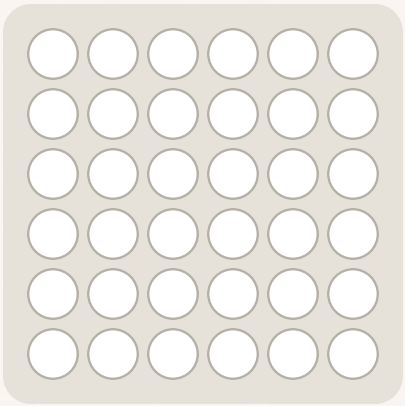
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