



© 1997–2009, Millennium Mathematics Project, University of Cambridge.

Permission is granted to print and copy this page on paper for non-commercial use. For other uses, including electronic redistribution, please contact us.

March 2004

Regulars



Puzzle page



Breaking up can be sweet...



I can't wait for Easter to get here, so I have bought myself a block of chocolate to tide me over. It is a normal rectangular-shaped block with 5 rows, and 4 pieces of chocolate to a row, making 20 pieces of chocolate ready for the eating. I want to eat all of it right now, but I want to savour each piece.

What is the least number of clean snaps necessary to break the block of chocolate into the 20 individual pieces?

What about for a block with n rows of m pieces?

If you are stumped by [last issue's puzzle](#), here is [the solution](#).

For some challenging mathematical puzzles, see the [NRICH](#) puzzles from [this month](#) or [last month](#).



Plus is part of the family of activities in the Millennium Mathematics Project, which also includes the NRICH and MOTIVATE sites.