

### COLUMN 1

**1. Answer:** \$5. Most students will quickly provide the intuitive answer: \$10. But it's wrong. If the game cost \$10, then the console cost \$10 + \$110, or \$120. The correct response is \$5 ( $\$5 + \$105 = \$110$ ). If your students got the wrong answer, tell them they are in good company. More than half the students at prestigious universities like Harvard, MIT, and Princeton come up with the same wrong answer (Kahneman, 2011, p. 45)!

**2. Answer:** 5 minutes. Most students will answer 100 minutes. Point out that the rate stays the same, regardless of the number of machines at work.

**3. Answer:** None, since Noah built the ark. Note: This riddle is so common in psychological studies that the effect it illustrates is called "The Moses Illusion" (Kahneman, 2011, p. 73).

**4. Answer:** The student's name. This is a variation of the Moses Illusion mentioned above, in which the context primes a quick response that happens to be wrong. Be prepared for an avalanche of "June" responses.

### COLUMN 2

**5. Answer:** A chessboard. Unlike "Moses Illusion" riddles, students are challenged here to provide a context for the action. They will wrack their brains and usually guess "a fairy tale," or "Middle Earth," or some variation of a fantasy story. The actual solution is both simple and prosaic.

**6. Answer:** "Are you asleep yet?" Students will attack this challenge, assuming that there are any number of possible answers. There are not, and you will probably get a wide variety of unsatisfying answers that students know are wrong but will share anyway.

**7. Answer:** The truck driver was walking, not driving. Riddles such as this illustrate how we work to come up with overly complicated narratives to explain evidence. With this riddle, expect your students to come up with elaborate stories to explain why a police officer would be so careless, such as the driver was rushing to the hospital, or was friends with the police officer. (One boy I worked with suggested that the two of them were accomplices in a bank robbery!)

**8. Answer:** The man was playing Monopoly. Like the previous riddle, this one will spur all kinds of imaginative stories to explain the situation. The simple solution will provide a real "ah-ha!" moment to your students.