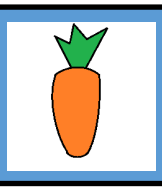


Let's Learn About: Algorithms

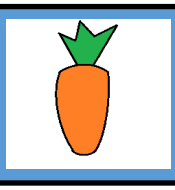
An **algorithm** is a step-by-step procedure for solving a problem or accomplishing some end[1]. In other words, an algorithm is a set of step-by-step instruction for solving a problem or completing a task.

Algorithms are what computer scientists write to make computer do tasks. Computers are not the only things that follow algorithms! You design algorithms every day!

When you get ready in the morning you follow lots of algorithms. For example, when you brush your teeth or put your clothes on you are doing a series of steps to complete a task. Can you think about the different steps you do to put your clothes on? In what order do you put them on? Is it more important to do some steps first? Would it work if you put your shoes on before you put on socks?? No, that would not work so well.

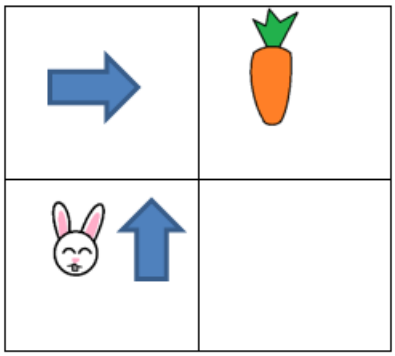
These are like the questions computer scientists have to think about when they make a computer do a task. What steps does the computer need to do? What are the important ones? What are the ones I can delete, so the computer runs faster?

[1] Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). Algorithm. In Merriam-Webster.com dictionary. Retrieved March 19, 2020, from https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/algorithm

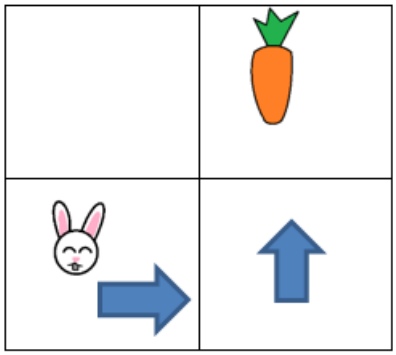


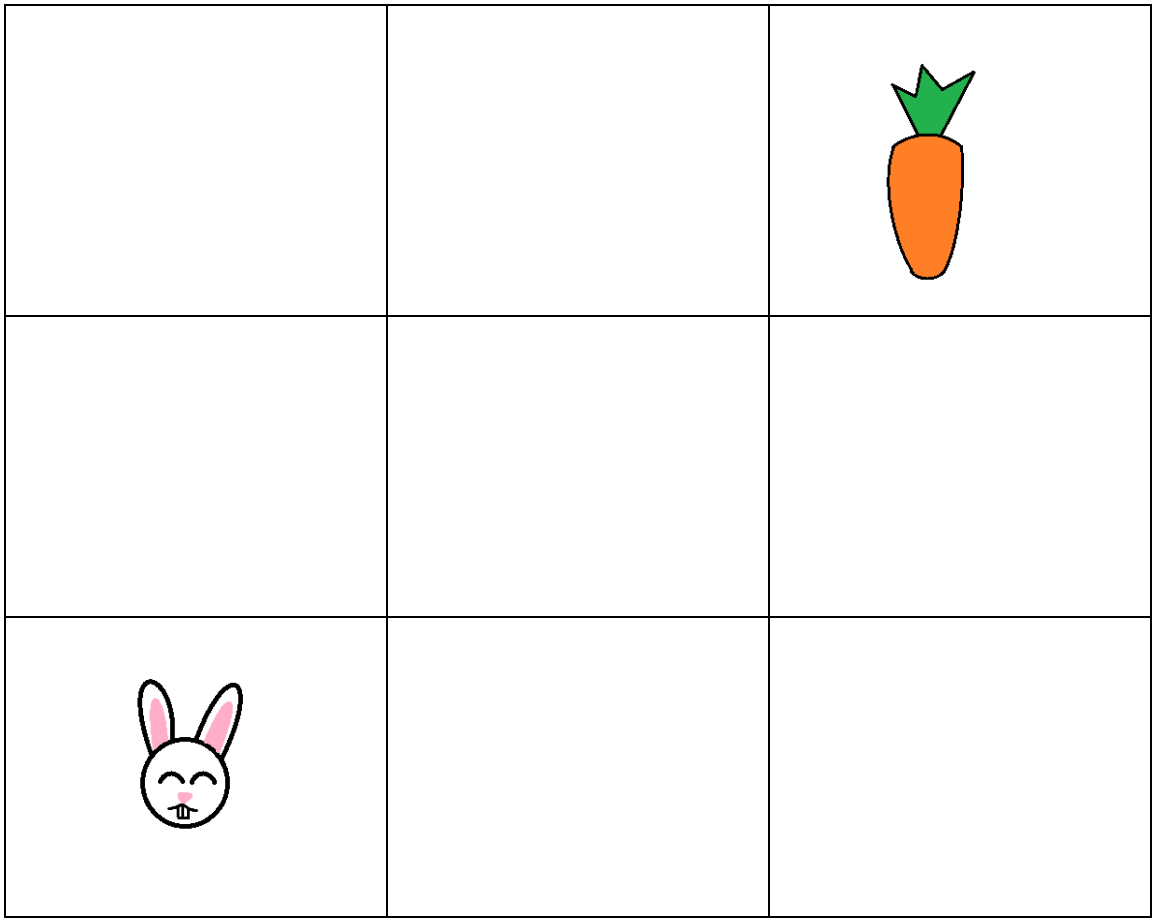
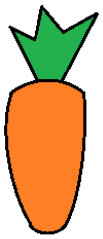
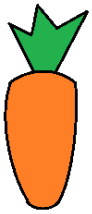
In this activity you will complete the task of getting Bunny to the carrot. You can only move the bunny in four directions:

Left= Right= Up= Down=



Or



Remember there is more than one way to complete a task!

Now it's your turn! See if you can get Bunny to the carrot by drawing an arrow going left, right, up, or down!