

Notes: Martha's mule

9 to 11

Solution and notes

The total weight to be carried is 202 kg, so each basket must hold 101 kg for the loads to balance.

One way is to put 6 kg, 22 kg, 35 kg and 38 kg on one side, and 9 kg, 17 kg, 28 kg and 47 kg on the other side.

Another way is to put 28 kg, 35 kg and 38 kg on one side, and 6 kg, 9 kg, 17 kg, 22 kg and 47 kg on the other side.

Extension

An extra 8kg load has to be carried.
How should Martha arrange the loads now?

(She can put 8kg, 9kg, 22kg, 28kg and 38kg on one side, and 6kg, 17kg, 35kg, 47kg on the other.)

Add two-digit numbers
Work out a strategy