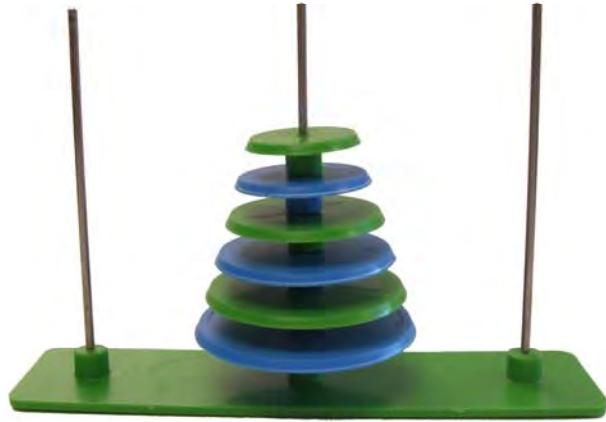


## 679-0100 (60-275) Tower of Hanoi

**Introduction:** There is an ancient legend: in the heart of Asia is a monastery. The monks tend to a room with three pillars and 64 golden discs. Moving the discs in the proper pattern, they seek to solve the puzzle. When all the discs have been moved and the puzzle solved, the universe will end.

Whether or not the legend is real, the Tower of Hanoi was a puzzle invented in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It involves moving discs of different sizes from one post to the next, with the goal of recreating the original tower on a different post.



**Operation:** The Tower of Hanoi puzzle has only three rules:

- Only one disk may be moved at a time.
- Each move consists of taking the upper disk from one of the rods and sliding it onto another rod, on top of the other disks that may already be present on that rod.
- No disk may be placed on top of a smaller disk.

The rules sound simple, but the puzzle is not. Many of your students will consider it quite impossible. However, given the right algorithm the puzzle is quite simple. Our version with 8 discs will take 255 moves to solve with perfect play. If desired, fewer discs can be used to speed up play.

Reconsider the original monks: given perfect play, their puzzle would take about 580 billion years to solve. Curiously, this is a possible maximum age for the universe.

### **Warranty and Parts:**

We replace all defective or missing parts free of charge. Additional replacement parts may be ordered toll-free. We accept MasterCard, Visa, checks and School P.O.s. All products warranted to be free from defect for 90 days. Does not apply to accident, misuse or normal wear and tear. Intended for children 13 years of age and up. This item is not a toy. It may contain small parts that can be choking hazards. Adult supervision is required.