

4.4 – Permutations When All Objects Are Identical

Example 1: You have 3 red marbles, 5 blue marbles, and 4 green marbles.

*the same*

How many distinct ways can you line them up?



*If I change these 2 marble the order is still the same.*

How many ways can I arrange each colour?

$$3 \text{ reds} = 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 = 6 \text{ ways}$$

$$5 \text{ blues} = 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 = 120 \text{ ways}$$

$$4 \text{ greens} = 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 = 24 \text{ ways}$$

12 marbles in total can be ordered

in  $12! = 479,001,600$  ways.

$$\# \text{ ways} = \frac{12!}{3!5!4!} \leftarrow \text{get rid of repeats} = 27720 \text{ ways}$$

Example 2: a) How many distinct ways can the letters of the word CANADA be arranged?

$$\frac{(\text{total objects})!}{\text{factorials of each repeated item}} = \frac{6!}{3!} = 120 \text{ ways}$$

*3 A's → 3!*

b) How many ways can the letters be arranged if the first letter must be N and the last letter must be C?

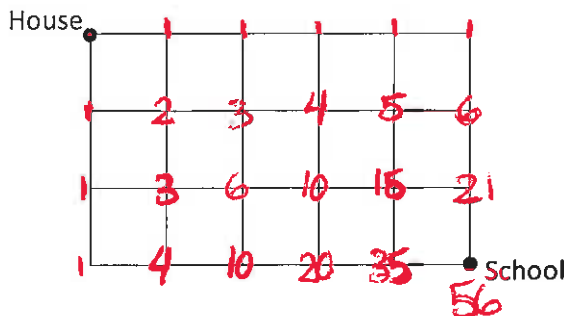
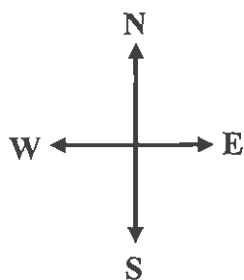
~~CANADA~~

so really need to order 4 objects  
(3 of which are repeated)

$$\frac{4!}{3!} = 4 \text{ ways}$$

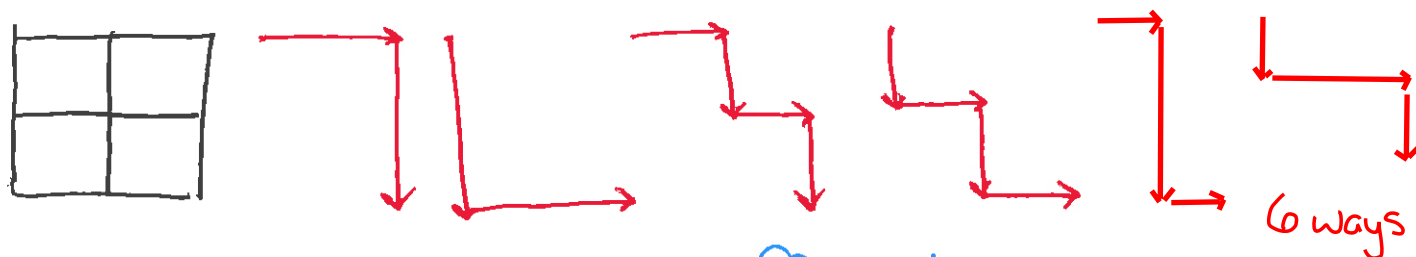
**Example 3:** Julie's home is three blocks north and five blocks west of her school.

How many routes can Julie take from home to school if she always travels either south or east?



↓ →  
(not ↑ or ←)

\*there is a pattern!  
add along lines.



∴ 56 different routes.

OR

No matter which route she takes there are 3 steps south & 5 steps East (8 steps altogether)

so ordering 8 objects, but 3 south & 5 east are repeated!

$$\frac{8!}{3!5!} = \frac{40320}{720} = 56$$

there are 56 different routes