

# Pilgrim's Puzzle

## Teacher's Notes

For most kids, the first three problems will keep them busy. The key observation--don't give it away too quickly!--is that there's no way to end at 0 without arriving at a negative number somewhere beforehand. Once you realize that you must go negative at some point, the problem gets easier.

The other observation that can be quite helpful for the first problem is that loops have a predictable effect on the amount of silver owed. A great hint to give kids who are getting stuck is to imagine what happens if the pilgrim circles the same block over and over. What if the effect of circling clockwise vs. counterclockwise? A gentle nudge into exploring loops is a perfect way to help kids break down the problem into easier steps.