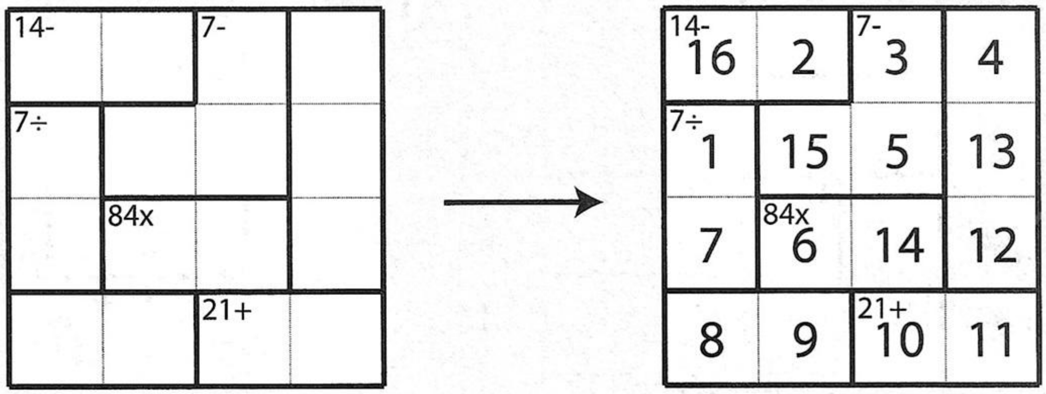
Math Path

EXAMPLE:



SOLVING HINTS

1 Start with regions that have the fewest possible candidates. In the example puzzle, there are two pairs of numbers that could satisfy the 7÷ region (7 and 1 or 14 and 2). There are also two pairs of numbers that could satisfy the 14- region (16 and 2 or 15 and 1).

2 Notice how neighboring regions affect each other. If we try to fill the 7÷ region with 14 and 2, it would be impossible to fill the 14- region with 15 and 1 since the path of adjacent numbers would be broken. Therefore, the 7÷ region must contain 1 and 7, and the 14- region will contain 16 and 2.

3 Make a path. The 1 must go in the upper cell of the 7÷ region so it can connect to the 2 in the 14- region (even though we don't yet know the exact placement of the 2).

4 With 1, 2, 7, and 16 committed to regions, there is only one pair of numbers remaining that can satisfy the 84x region (6 and 14). Following that, the numbers for the 7- region can be determined with certainty (15, 5, and 3).

5 Now, the path strategy can be used. We have determined the numbers that will fill four regions even though we don't know their exact placements. We do know the placement of the 7, and there is only one possible way to enter the numbers 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 in the unused cells.