

Monthly Mindbenders

January, 2026

Problem

A ladybug alights on the 12 of a cuckoo clock. Whenever the clock strikes, she moves randomly to a neighboring number (so the first time, she moves to the 1 or the 11 with equal probability). Suppose the ladybug continues this process until she has been to all of the numbers at least once.

What is the probability that the last new number she visits is 6?

Suggested by Richard Stanley.