

Ladybird box!

We solved the ladybird box problem on nrich.maths.org. We both solved it without knowing the other one did too. Then we got together and talked about it.

Liva: So first I read the instructions. I tried some ways online, but it didn't work so I read the instructions again and it didn't say that the ladybirds can't be 3 diagonally, so I put all six randomly. Then I put all the ladybirds that they fit only the first instruction-2 ladybirds in every column. Then I tried to put them so they fit the 2nd instruction. After that I put only 5- top right corner, top left corner, exact middle, bottom left and bottom right corner. Then I saw that in middle row was only 1 lady so I put the 6th ladybird next to the middle one and then I moved left bottom one space to right, because I knew about now they fit in every row and column. Then I counted.. 6! And it fits the instruction!!!

Maya: So first I read the instructions. It said that I have to put them in with only two in each column and row but it never said diagonally, so I started on the first column and put two going down. Then I went to the second column and put two on the bottom going up. Then the last two spaces that would work were the top and bottom squares on the last column. Then I looked at the last words. Can you find different ways of doing it? Yes! Just put it upside down! So that's how I solved the Ladybird problem!

Our diagram:

