You Will Need:

- Two players
- 15 sticks (these could be chopsticks, popsicle sticks, toothpicks, pencils, etc.)

How to Play:

1. Arrange the 15 sticks into three piles: one with 3 sticks, one with 5 sticks, and one with 7 sticks.
2. Players alternate turns.
   Decide which player will go first (Player 1) and which player will go second (Player 2).
3. On your turn, you can pick up as many sticks as you want, as long as all of the sticks you pick up come from the same pile.
4. The player who picks up the last stick wins the game!

Play this game a number of times. Alternate which player goes first. Is there a winning strategy for this game? If so, which player (Player 1 or Player 2) has a winning strategy?

Can you use your winning strategy from the first game of Pick Up Sticks (from April 6) to develop a winning strategy for this game?

Variations: Change the number of sticks that you have in each of the three piles. (You will need to find more sticks, if you want to start with more than 15 sticks in total.) Does the number of sticks in each pile affect your winning strategy?

More Info:

Check out the CEMC at Home webpage on Monday, April 27 for a discussion of a strategy for this game. We encourage you to discuss your ideas online using any forum you are comfortable with.