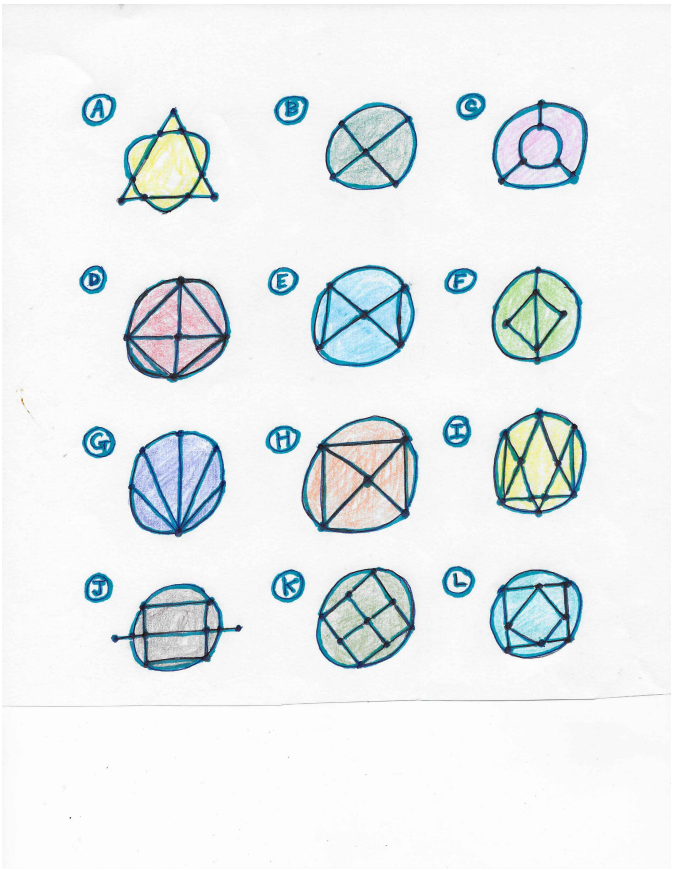
IT'S OLNEY MATH

– Greg Coxson

Which of the twelve patterns below cannot be drawn in one continuous line without lifting the pencil from the paper? You are not allowed to go over any part of the line more than once, and you are not allowed to cross a line.



Each of the figures above is a graph, or set of points, called nodes, where pairs of nodes are connected by lines, or edges. This is an example of problems studied in an area of Mathematics called Graph Theory.

When you have done a few of these challenges, you might find yourself asking what properties of these graphs makes them more likely to yield success in the task given above. That will lead to a whole new level of puzzling.