# The paradox of the eleven Camels

A long time ago, a man lived in the desert. He was old and wise, and he owned eleven camels, which were very valuable animals. The man had three sons, and before he died, he wanted to share his camels between them in a fair way.
In his will, the father gave clear instructions :
The first son, the eldest, should receive half of the camels.
The second son should receive one quarter of the camels.
The youngest son should receive one sixth of the camels.
After the father's death, the three sons came together to divide the camels. At first, they tried to follow their father's words exactly. However, they soon realized there was a serious problem.
The number eleven could not be divided into these parts. Half of eleven, one quarter of eleven, and one sixth of eleven were not whole numbers. Since camels are living animals, the sons could not cut them into pieces.
The brothers became confused and worried. They discussed the problem for a long time, but they could not find a solution. Finally, they decided to ask a wise man from their village for help.
The wise man listened carefully to their story. After thinking for a moment, he decided to help in an unusual way. He brought one camel of his own and added it to the others. Now, instead of eleven camels, there were twelve camels.
With twelve camels, the division became easy:
Half of twelve is six camels, so the first son received six camels.
One quarter of twelve is three camels, so the second son received three camels.
One sixth of twelve is two camels, so the youngest son received two camels.
When the camels were counted, the sons realized that they had received eleven camels in total. The wise man then quietly took back his own camel and left.
This story is called a paradox because the problem seems impossible at first, but it is solved in a simple and surprising way. The lesson of the story is clear: some problems cannot be solved by calculations alone. Sometimes, we need creativity, imagination, and a new way of thinking to find a solution.

## ACTIVITY 1 – Global Understanding

1) Read the text quickly and choose the best title:
   a) A Family Conflict
   b) A Strange Inheritance Problem
   c) Life in the Desert

2) Read the text and circle the correct answer.

The story is about :

☐ a family
☐ camels

☐ a school

The father has :

☐ 3 camels
☐ 11 camels
☐ 12 camels

The father has :

☐ one son
☐ two sons
☐ three sons

The sons have a problem:

☐ at the beginning
☐ in the middle
☐ at the end

The problem is solved:

☐ Yes
☐ No

A wise man helps the sons :

☐ Yes
☐ No