

# Problem of the Block

## Block 2



### The Tale of Gilgamesh

According to normal reproductive behaviour if three of my grandparents were French and one Russian then I would be said to be one quarter Russian and three quarters French(RFFF). If half of my great-grandparents were English and half other nationalities then I would be said to be half English (EEEEXYZW).

The king of Sumeria around 2600 BC was a great warrior called Gilgamesh . In the poem The Epic of Gilgamesh the hero stated that Gilgamesh was “Two Thirds God and One Third Man.” Assuming normal reproductive behaviour between a set of ancestors of type pure G and a set of ancestors of type pure M, could you create an offspring of type two-thirds G and one-third M? How many generations would it take to create a genetic stock to within 1% of (GGM)?



Turn in solutions to Dr. Skorczewski in Law 204 or by email at [tskorczewski@cornellcollege.edu](mailto:tskorczewski@cornellcollege.edu) by October 30. Partial solutions will receive credit (and are encouraged!). You can turn in a solution to just one question and turn in a solution to another question on a different day. The winning solution which earns the bonus points for the yearly competition will be the submission that is the best written, not necessarily the first. Submitting solutions to the Problem of the Block may earn culture points toward the math major. For more information about the Problem of the Block and to print off your own copy visit <http://www.cornellcollege.edu/mathematics/problem-of-the-block/index.shtml>.