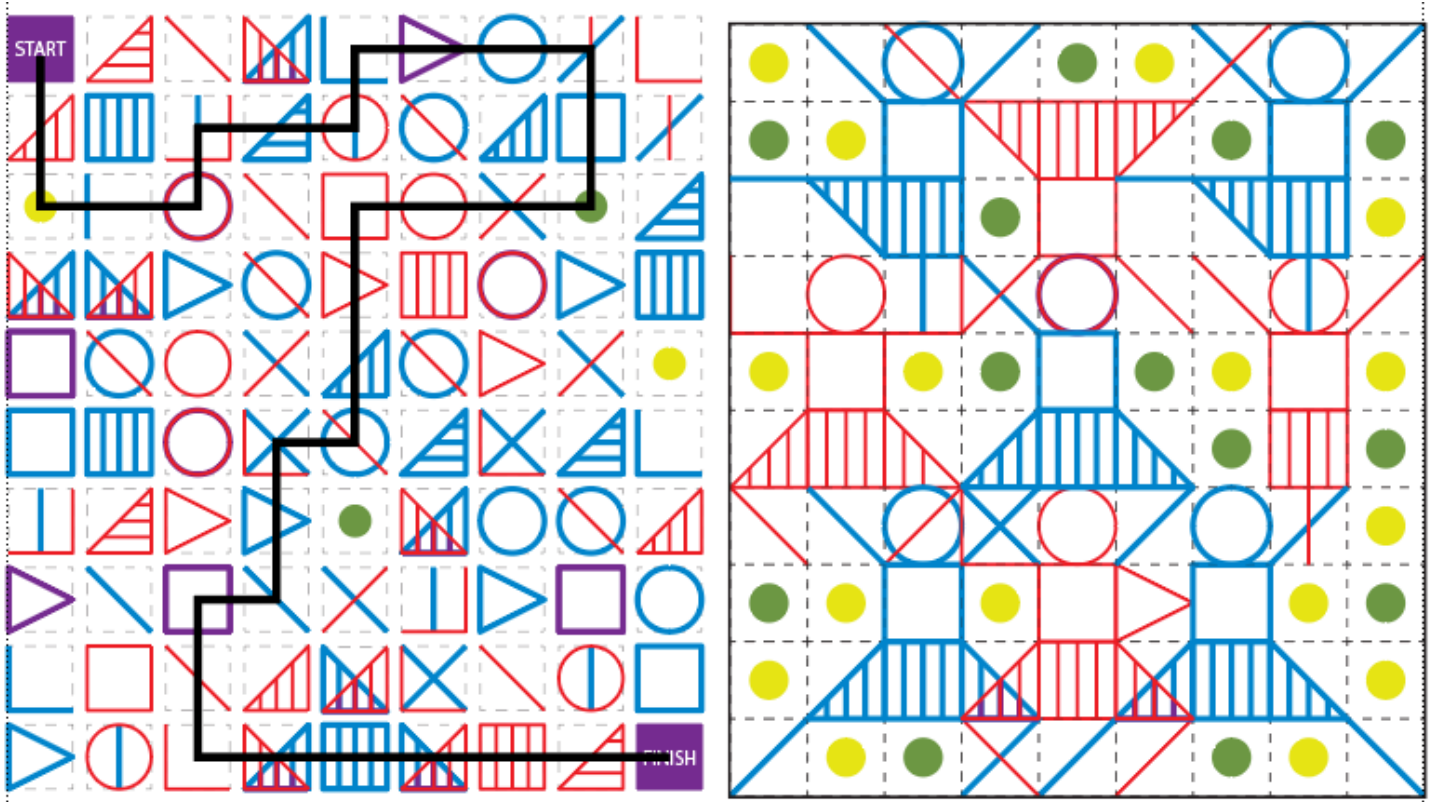


## LAKA SOLUTION – CHALK

The correct path is shown at left below. The path can be logically deduced, beginning with the realization that the top right symbol cannot be visited (as the path would then hit the same symbol on either side of it), so the only other instance of that symbol must be visited. Similarly, the two symbols flanking the upper right symbol are the only instance of that symbol, so one of them must be visited, and in either case the path will hit the adjacent blue square, eliminating that elsewhere in the grid. That eliminates and dictates certain squares by the FINISH and START. Key to the logic is the need to be as economical as possible to hit the dictated squares in only 31 steps, which eliminates most side trips.

Following the instructions creates the image at right.



This image depicts dancers in the poses of Arthur Conan Doyle's "dancing men" cipher, albeit with grass skirts added. Decoding the message yields IT IS CHALK.