Purpose: The aim of this lesson is to make solving the final layer, Step 2: Orient the Corners, of the Rubik’s Cube accessible to all elementary students through the use of a chant and kinesthetic hand movements.

Background: Students should be able to solve the cube through the beginning of solving the final layer (make a yellow cross) before moving onto this stage.

Opening: You’ve learned so many steps to solve the Rubik’s Cube! Which stage has been the most challenging to learn so far? Which stage has been easiest? While I’m so proud of each of you for your perseverance during the challenging stages and steps of the Cube, I think you all deserve a break today! How does that sound?

Lesson: We call this ‘The Easy Peasy Move’, because students find this to be the easiest step in the solve. We have a fun song for this move, and I think you’ll soon understand why students breathe a sigh of relief and just enjoy the ease with which they are able to complete ‘The Easy Peasy Move’

The Easy Peasy Move
(Yellow Corners on Top)
Right Up
Top Left
Right Down
Top Left
Right Up
Top Left
Top Left
Right Down

See the video for the coordinating tune.
Look for patterns within the move: Every other move is a right, except the two top lefts toward the end. The top face of the cube is only moved to the left during this move. The right pattern is up, down, up, down.

Now that you’ve become familiar with the patterns, can you see why students find this move to be so simple? Before we solve this move, we need to know one more trick: how to hold our cube when completing this move. There will be three ways to hold the cube, depending upon the pattern on the top. If no corners are on the top face of the cube, you’ll put your yellow pointer finger on a yellow tile on the left side. If one corner cube is on top, you’ll see that it looks like a yellow fish. In that case, have the yellow ‘fish’ eat out of your left palm before starting the move. If any two corners of the cube are yellow, place your left thumb on a yellow piece of the cube. (See image on left or the Solution Guide, page 13, for illustrations.)

Now that you’ve matched your top face to one of the above states, perform the ‘easy’ move. After each sequence, orient the cube to rematch the top face to the appropriate state and repeat the sequence until all four top corners are yellow.

**Extension:** After experiencing the success of this move, students will feel encouraged. Have them channel that positive energy into a letter to their future selves.
Example: Dear Future Me, I’m writing to encourage you to persevere during the final steps of the cube. You are so close to solving this! Don’t quit now. You can do this. Think of how many steps you’ve already learned. Don’t be discouraged. You will soon experience the ultimate success. Just don’t give up! Love, Your Past (and Super Successful) Self

**Video for this lesson:**
https://vimeo.com/438375504

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