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For the Student



Figure it out is a booklet that teaches problem-solving skills. In each lesson you will learn a strategy that you can use to solve problems. Your teacher will ask you questions to help you use the strategy to solve the first problem in each lesson. Your teacher will also guide you through the second problem in each lesson, giving you some things to think about and ways to help you find the solution. The last two problems in each lesson are for you to do on your own. These problems give you practice using the strategy you have just learned.

By the time you have completed this booklet, you will have learned eight strategies to use when solving problems. The strategies will be useful in school and in your everyday life. Hopefully, you will find that calculators and computers are useful for computation, but human beings are needed to solve problems.

When you Use this Booklet

- Read each problem carefully before you begin to solve it.
- Think about the questions that follow the first two problems in each lesson. They will help you to understand the problems and find the solutions.
- Use the blank space on the page to work through problems. You can write anywhere in this booklet if it will help you to solve a problem.
- Once you have solved a problem, check your solution to be sure it makes sense.
- Write the solution to a problem on the line that follows the problem.

This **Figure it out** booklet was prepared for students by Sandra R. Cohen.

Draw a Picture



1. In 4 minutes, Jenna can saw a log into 2 pieces. If she saws at the same speed, how long will it take her to saw a log into 6 pieces?

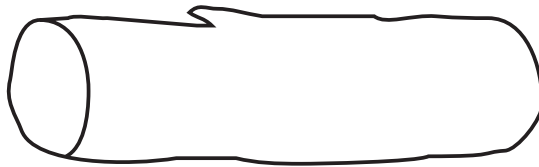


Questions

- a. Is the solution a number of *pieces* or a number of *minutes*? _____
- b. How many cuts are needed to saw a log into 2 pieces? _____
- c. How much time does Jenna use to saw 1 cut? _____
- d. How many cuts are needed to saw a log into 6 pieces? _____

Apply the Strategy

Use the picture of the log to help you solve the problem. Draw lines on the log to show Jenna's cuts. Write the number of minutes for each cut.



Solution _____

- e. How did you use the picture to find the answer? _____

Use a Pattern



1. Under which letter in the chart would you find the number 38?

A	B	C	D	E
1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■

Questions

a. What number patterns do you see in the chart? _____

b. What is the same about all the numbers under letter B? _____

Under letter C? _____

c. Under any letter, what number do you add to go from one number to the next? _____

d. Under which letter would you find 21? _____ 30? _____

Apply the Strategy

Use what you know about the chart to solve the problem. Try not to write any numbers in the chart.

Solution _____

e. Did you use patterns to solve the problem? If so, how? _____

Review



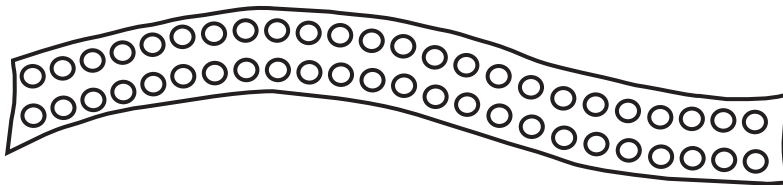
Draw a Picture

Use the drawings to solve the problems. Draw other pictures for help if you want to.

1. Adam picked some flowers for his mother. The picture shows $\frac{1}{3}$ of the flowers he picked. How many flowers did Adam pick?



2. There are less than 50 stickers on a roll. The stickers can be divided among 2, 3 or 7 children so each child gets the same number of stickers. How many stickers are on the roll?



3. Harry is a Brinko. He saw a ship full of 10 Boingos land in his back yard. Some of the Boingos had 3 ears. Some had 5 ears. Together, the Boingos had 44 ears. How many Boingos had 3 ears? How many had 5 ears?

