

Problem Solving

STEPS

1. UNDERSTAND

- Read and reread the entire problem carefully, and as you read each sentence...
- Circle key words or clues that tell you what operation to use.
- List all numbers with their units needed to solve the problem.
- Underline the problem to be solved or question to be answered.
- Mark out extra information that you do NOT need.

2. PLAN

- Choose a **strategy** to solve the problem.
- You may have to use more than just one!

3. SOLVE

- Try out your plan, using the key words, numbers and operations you have identified that are needed to answer the question.
- Do the math, showing your work.

4. CHECK

- Reread the question.
- Tip: Write or say your answer as a complete sentence using the same words that appear in the question.
- Is the answer reasonable?
- Does it make sense?
- If it does, you are done. If not, go back to step one and try again.

Strategies

1. Draw a Picture
2. Make a Model
3. Make a List
4. Make a Chart or Table
5. Look for a Pattern
6. Act it Out
7. Work Backwards
8. Guess and Check
9. Look for Unseen Data
10. Try an Equation
11. Use a Formula
12. Change Form
13. Use Partial Results
14. Use the Data

Somehow...

Just try Something!!