

4-Step Plan

Problem Solving Strategies

- Make a Model
- Draw a Diagram
- Use a Venn Diagram
- Act It Out/Use Manipulatives
- Guess, Check, and Revise
- Break into Parts
- Solve a Simpler Problem
- Look for a Pattern
- Work Backward
- Make an Organized List or Table
- Write a Number Sentence
- Use Logical Reasoning

EXPLORE

1. What do you know?
2. What do the terms mean?
3. What do you need to find?

PLAN

1. Choose a strategy.
2. How do the facts relate to each other?
3. Estimate the answer.

SOLVE

1. Use your strategy to solve the problem.
2. Pay close attention to the details of the problem.
3. If the plan does not work, revise it or start over with a different plan.

CHECK

1. Does your answer make sense?
2. Is your answer close to your estimate?
3. Did you answer the question?