

Unit Guide

Breaking Down Problem Solving for All Students

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This twelve lesson, eighty-minute block schedule unit focuses on teaching sixth grade students a process for mathematical problem-solving and corresponding problem-solving strategies. The problem-solving process focuses on the MATCH acronym that represents five steps. These steps include: making sense of the problem, adopting a strategy/making a plan, trying your strategy and plan, checking your work, and having a back-up plan. Following the introduction of the MATCH process, students will be explicitly taught to use four problem-solving strategies that will help them to navigate through the sixth grade Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. The four strategies that the students will explore are: make a drawing or diagram, look for a pattern, construct a table, and work backward. By the end of the unit, students should be able to apply the MATCH process and the four problem-solving strategies to a culminating project that showcases their interpretation and understanding of the skills presented to them. More importantly, the overall goal of the unit is for students to be able to apply the MATCH process and problem-solving strategies to the *Connected Math* curriculum used in the classroom throughout sixth grade and beyond.