

Problem-Solving Strategy – Look for a Pattern

Yew, W. T.; Lian, L. H.; and Meng, C. C. (2017). Problem solving strategies among primary school teachers. *Journal of Education and Practice* 8(15), 136-140.

Muckerheide, P.; Mogill, H.; and Mogill, A. T. (1999). In search of fair game. *Mathematics and Computer Education*, 33(2).

This targeted intervention enables students to organize the data and visually consider options when answering a word problem.

Materials:

- Word problems
- Paper/Pencil
- Chart with **Look for a Pattern Steps**
 - (1) List the information you know and think about the information you need to find.
 - (2) Make an organized list, table, or chart with the information you know.
 - (3) Look for a pattern.
 - (4) Use the pattern to find the missing information.

Steps:

1. The teacher and student(s) read the problem together. The teacher paraphrases the problem.
2. The student(s) restate the question in own words.
3. The student(s) determine the important information.
4. Using the **Look for a Pattern Steps**, the student(s) solve the problem.