

Problem solving

4

Recommended
4th grade



Length
50-100 minutes

About this lesson

In this lesson, students will identify the steps and skills for solving a problem and reflect on a time they solved a problem. Students will learn the importance of brainstorming options, having a flexible plan, and being prepared for setbacks on the path to a solution.

Learning objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- Identify the steps for solving a problem
- Explore common problem-solving skills
- Understand that a problem might have more than one solution
- Reflect on a skill they used to solve a problem

Driving question

What are the steps to solve any kind of problem?

Future-ready skills

Problem solving

Critical thinking

Perseverance

Lesson breakdown

30-40
minutes

Activity 1 - Mission: Problem solving

Direct students to complete **Mission: Problem solving**, where they will learn about the steps and skills for solving problems.

20-60
minutes

[In-real-life mission: The super-solver strategy!](#)

In this extension activity, students find a problem (their own, a friend's, a pet's, or a made-up character's) and come up with a strategy to solve it. They record their plan on the worksheet or think up a creative way to present the solution. They then upload the artifact to **Storyboard** and reflect on what they learned.

Xello entry points

Students can begin right away with **Mission: Problem solving**. As part of the extension activity, students will upload their worksheet or other artifact to **Storyboard** and reflect on what they learned about the topic and themselves.

Vocabulary

- Solution
- Brainstorm
- Evaluate
- Obstacle
- Resilient
- Resourceful

Student handouts

Click the link below to open the handout in Google Docs. Click **File** and **Make a copy** to save it to your own Google Drive. Now you can make your changes to the handout before sharing with students! Or, under **File**, click **Download** so you can begin sharing the PDF, as is.

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