

PLATO[®] Math Problem Solving

Grade Level: 3–12
Target Audience: Middle/High School
Audio Support: Yes

Product Features

- Nearly 20 real-world interactive scenarios
- Various levels of coaching assistance to explore and solve the problems—Show Me, Assist Me, and Leave Me Alone
- Several interactive tools to assist with problem solving
- Sources of information to simulate real-life scenarios
- Integrates curricula from PLATO[®] Math Fundamentals and PLATO[®] Algebra II

Product Benefits

- Helps learner define and solve multi-step problems
- Allows learner to gain problem-solving insight from real-world scenarios
- Encourages transfer of learned problem-solving skills to classroom instruction and real-life situations
- Helps learner formulate basic troubleshooting strategies
- Applies mathematical concepts from basic computation to advanced algebra

Online Tools

Calculator—provides tool for basic operations and calculations

Notebook—allows learner to type, save, and print notes

Scenario-specific tools—provides a variety of tools according to the problem, such as an equation builder and graph makers

Scenario-specific resources—includes information materials such as brochures, memos, and maps

Menu Icons

Menu bar—Notebook, Start Over, Refresh, Help, Exit

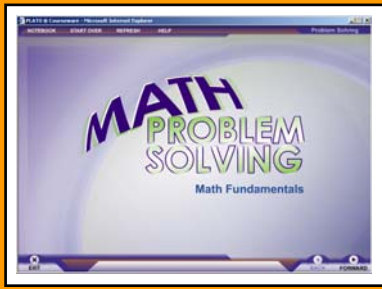
Scenario navigation bar—Audio Controls, Audio Transcript

Toolbar—Steps to Solve, Level of Assistance, Review Scenario

Problem work area—Light bulb, question mark, answer button, reset button, resize window

Reference Materials (Refer to PLATO Documentation CD)

PLATO Curriculum Guide—Math Problem Solving



Getting Started

- Refer to the PLATO Curriculum Guide—Math Problem Solving to learn about product features and benefits.
- Use the PLATO Software and Service Guide to identify curriculum structure.
- Begin previewing courseware modules.

Module Progression

- Listen to the problem scenario.
- Begin the module at one of three levels: Show Me, Assist Me, or Leave Me Alone.
- Answer a question to ensure understanding of the problem goal.
- Review the Steps to Solve the Problem.
- Complete the multi-step problem.
- Complete the module in the Leave Me Alone level to get mastery credit for the module.

Assessment

- Ensure learner has prerequisite skills.
- Follow-up with journal prompts as learner completes a module.
- Encourage learner to complete the activity at the Leave Me Alone level.

Implementation Strategies

- Align the problem-solving scenarios to state standards and classroom instruction.
- Assign courses in PLATO Math Problem Solving as an extension to related PLATO mathematics curricula, such as PLATO® Math Fundamentals.
- Encourage learner to work collaboratively at the Show Me or Assist Me level.
- Review the module as a whole-group activity at the Show Me level.
- Provide opportunities for remedial learners who need additional extension activities, such as classroom worksheets, and team building projects.

Evaluation

- Review Notebook entries and completed charts or tables.
- Solve the problem at the Leave-Me-Alone level.
- Discuss progress with learner to determine next steps.

Extension Exercises

- Create real-life scenarios that require the same problem-solving strategies.
- Search for web sites that align thematically with the various topics.
- Align course modules with textbooks and district objectives.

Curriculum
Structure

Curriculum



Math
Problem
Solving

Course



Math
Fundamentals

Module



Building a
Highway

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