Unit Plan - Solve Problems

**Grade:** High School

**Unit/Lesson:** Solving Problems

**Content Area:** *CTE/Employability Frameworks*

*1.2 Critical Thinking Skills*

*Critical thinking skills are evident in homework, group work, project-based tasks, and presentations.*

**Benchmark**:

**1.2.4 Solves problems**

Students assess problems involving the use of available resources (personnel and materials) and review multiple strategies for resolving problems (could be linked to thinking creatively).

[TEACHER RESOURCE: Rubric - Problem Solving](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kUAxAMHlsPo9AJ4L7bNrNhNXyvylZGLGVtKn4iPJ0lE/edit?usp=sharing)

**Employability Framework(s) Integrated:**

1.2.2 Thinks critically

1.2.3 Makes sound decisions

**Learning intentions:**

* Explore how effective teams might address problems that occur among its members
* Work with a team to solve a problem

# Supporting Lesson Plans

## Team Problem Solving

I can explore how effective teams might address problems that occur among its members.

[Problem Solving and Critical Thinking](https://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/youth/softskills/Problem.pdf)

Participants will hear about how to properly tell the difference among criticism, praise, and feedback and reacting appropriately. The section will also review strategies for making ethical decisions, solving problems on a team with others, and learning how to take into account others’ perceptions when assessing actions or statements in the workplace.

## Lost at Sea

I can work with a team to solve a problem.

[Lost at Sea Survival Exercise](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MsxuZfvgXDc2zQR1b9pjy6gigT4nSD64bakL72Z6U1Q/edit?usp=sharing)

Rank items remaining for their value in being rescued at sea.

## Cup Stack

I can use the problem solving process with a team.

1. Try [The Cup Stack](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EFz8I15xb0Z_LrAy_U5tVuOeckCnlQzPGJKnVfO4ZVg/edit?usp=sharing) without any planning.
2. Do The Cup Stack with a different group. Lead a discussion applying the problem solving process.

(See [#9 on this resource](https://www.weareteachers.com/9-awesome-classroom-activities-that-teach-job-readiness-skills/))

1. Complete the cup stack with the new group and time to see improvement.
2. Complete a reflection on how the problem solving process increased the speed of the process.