## Woodhpidk Problem-solving



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## Lesson Plans

Dbjective: Explain to your students that the goal of this activity is: to solve problems using toothpicks
Poster: Post all three posters as you work through this packet (located at the end of this packet) for students to see. The purpose of these posters (from the word "post") is to guide your students in their work. Let me explain...


A quick look at this design often results in an incorrect answer. Most students will identify four squares, failing to notice that there is a large square as well as the four little squares. The same is true for triangles.


There are three types of action a student may perform: add, subtract, or rearrange. I use the terms "add," "remove" and "move."

Touthpicks: Students need toothpicks far this activity. Why? We work better with something in our hands, to manipulate (hence the education term, manipulatives), much easier for the mind to grasp than abstract visualization. Think of long multiplication without the white board to help you. Imagine having to describe it in words. Not easy!

Why toathpicks? In the ald days, matchsticks were used far this activity, but I prefer NDT to use them for very obvious reasons. I really don't want to get called into the principal's office to explain why my kids are catching things on fire in the restroom.

What kind of toothpicks? There are two types of toothpicks: the round kind and the flat kind. I always buy the flat kind. Why? They are stackable (like Papsicle sticks), forming a neat stack, sa they don't roll off the desk as often. The round kind, typically found in restaurants in parts of the country where beef is served mare frequently, tend to roll acrass the desk and onta the floor. And they're too pointy. Imagine your students poking each other in jest, ha-ha, and again, having to explain to the principle why students are stabbing each other on the playgraund using the weapons that YDU supplied. Find the flat kind and avoid the issues.

Be careful about explaining what students can't do (like build a toothpick pea-shooter with a straw and shooting them at each other). If you give them the idea, then they just might build it (against your wishes).

Printable Handouts: Here are three of my thirty-three handouts (see below).


Now, you are ready for lesson one. Let's ga. Make copies and hand them out.
I ALWAYS have my students wark in pairs/partners (except for tests). They prefer it, and so da l. Here are several reasons: I) Two minds are better than one, as there is a greater chance of one student correcting the other and getting it right. 2) Socialization, talking, language, content-based discussion and problem solving. We are a sacial species. This idea of silence in the classroam is ridiculous, unproductive, and creates negative feelings towards schooling. 3) Turn-taking instead of the "every man for himself" approach of yester-year's schooling. 4) I need half as much paper/printing. There are lots of good reasons to assign work to partners and very few negatives. My students get used to this format quickly each year. It's every day, not a novelty. And I demand that they focus. Ilisten as I move around the room, aware of what they are saying and making sure that their talk is related to the work. And here is a trick I picked up: if THEY are watching YOU, then they aren't working.

Talking is NDT a privilege. It is a right and must be nurtured by us, the teachers and parents.


Your solution: Do you want your students to use wards? ar pictures? ar arrows to show Add, Remove ar Mave? Model for them exactly what you want them to do in the first few lessons and they'll do exactly that in the rest.

Add: draw a plus sign (+) to show an added toothpick.
Remave: draw an $X$ on the drawing on the left to show a deleted toothpick.
Move: use an arrow, from the drawing on the left to their drawing on the right to show a moved toothpick.

There are three formats that this lesson can take:

| (1) | Whole-class | Teach several lessons to the whole class, in the class. Take your time. Be the guide on the side and let them tell you how it is done. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 搨 | Hamewark | After a few lessons have occurred in class, then assign this as homework. |
| 開 | Centers | [r, place this activity in a learning center. |

## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem ${ }^{\#} \mid$

Remove two toothpicks to leave two squares.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\text {\# }}$ 2

Move three toothpicks to leave three squares.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\text {\# }} 3$

Remove two toothpicks to leave twa triangles.

Your Solution


## Toothpick Problem-solving

## Problem ${ }^{\#} 4$

Move six toothpicks to make fifteen

## Your Solution



## Problem ${ }^{\text {\# }} 5$

Remove four toothpicks to leave three triangles.


## Problem ${ }^{\text {\# }}$ G <br> Add five toothpicks to make four squares.

## Your Solution <br> Your Solution



## Your Solution




## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem \#7

Mave two toathpicks to make four triangles.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\text {\# }}$

Remove four toothpicks to make two squares.

Your Solution


## Problem \# $\square$

Remove six toathpicks to make five squares.


Your Solution


Toothpick Problem-solving is created by the Gifted Guru at www.TeachersPayTeachers.com

## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem \#|

Move two toothpicks to make one trapezoid.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\text {\# }} \mid$

Move two toothpicks to make six squares.

## Your Solution



## Problem ${ }^{\#} \mid 2$

Mave three toothpicks to make the fish swim the other direction.

Your Solution


## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem ${ }^{\#} \mid 3$

Move two toothpicks to make seven squares.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\# 14}$

Remove four toothpicks to make five squares.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\# 15}$

Remove three toothpicks to leave a trapezoid and a rhombus.

Your Solution


## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem ${ }^{\# 1}$ 汇

Add four toothpicks to make eight triangles.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\# 17}$

Mave five toothpicks to make six triangles.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#} \mid 8$

Add two toothpicks to make nine squares.
Your Solution


## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem ${ }^{\# 1}$ 眈

Remove one toothpick to make three squares.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#}$ 2

Move three toothpicks to leave two squares.

Your Solution


Problem ${ }^{\#}$ 2|
Add one toothpick to make eight squares.
Your Solution


## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem ${ }^{\# 22}$

Move three triangles to make five triangles.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#}$ 23

Move two toothpicks to leave four squares.

## Your Solution



## Problem ${ }^{\#}$ 24

Remove six toothpicks to leave three squares.

Your Solution


## ToothpidE Problem-solving

## Problem ${ }^{\#} 25$

Move four toothpicks to leave five squares.

## Your Solution



## Problem ${ }^{\#}$ 2 6

Remove three toothpicks to leave three triangles.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#}$ 27

Add one toothpick to make seven squares.

## Your Solution



## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem ${ }^{\# 28}$

Mave one touthpick to make a square.
Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#}$ 2 8

Move four toathpicks to make ten squares.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\text {\# }}$ 3

Mave three toathpicks to leave three squares.

Your Solution


## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem \# 31

Move four triangles to make one triangle.

## Your Solution



## Problem ${ }^{\#} 32$

Remove four touthpicks to leave four squares.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#} 33$

Move one toothpick to form an even number.

Your Solution


Rquares.


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## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem ${ }^{\text {\#3 }} 4$

Move four touthpicks to make four squares.

## Your Solution



## Problem ${ }^{\#} 35$

Move two toothpicks to leave four squares.
Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#}$ 3 6

Move four toothpicks to make four triangles.

Your Solution


## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem ${ }^{\#} 37$

Remove two toothpicks to leave three triangles.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\# 38}$

Remove eight toathpicks to leave four squares.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#} 39$

Add two toothpicks to make eight squares.

Your Solution


## Toothpidk Problem-solving

Problem ${ }^{\#} 4 \square$
Move two toothpicks to leave three squares.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#} 41$

Add four toothpicks to make ten squares.
Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#} 42$

Remove five toothpicks to leave one pentagon.

Your Solution


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## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem ${ }^{\#} 43$

Remove eight toothpicks to leave three
squares.

## Your Solution



## Problem ${ }^{\#} 44$

Remove one toothpick to make two triangles.

Your Solution


Problem ${ }^{\#} 45$
Move two touthpicks to make four squares.

Your Solution


## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem ${ }^{\#} 4$ [

Add two toathpicks to make five triangles.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#} 47$

Move two toothpicks to make eleven squares.

Your Solution


Problem ${ }^{\#} 48$
Remove two toothpicks to leave three squares.

Your Solution


## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem ${ }^{\#} 49$

Move two toothpicks to make three squares.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#} 5 \square$

Move four toothpicks to leave three squares.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#} 5$

Move two touthpicks to make four squares.

Your Solution


## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem ${ }^{\# 52}$

Add five toothpicks to make NINE.
Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#} 53$

Add eight toothpicks to make five squares.

Your Solution


Problem ${ }^{\#} 54$
Remove four toothpicks to leave three squares.

Your Solution


## Toothpidk Problem-solving

Problem ${ }^{\# 5} 5$
Add four toothpicks to make thirteen squares.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\# 5}$ 6

Move two toothpicks to make three triangles.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\# 57}$

Remove four toothpicks to leave two squares.

Your Solution


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## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem ${ }^{\text {\#58 }}$

Remove three toothpicks to leave three rhambi.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\# 5} 5$

Remove five toothpicks to leave three squares.

Your Solution


Problem ${ }^{\text {\# }}$ B
Move three toothpicks to leave four squares.

Your Solution


## ToothpidE Problem-solving

Problem ${ }^{\#}$ G|
Remove eight toothpicks to leave two squares.

## Your Solution



## Problem ${ }^{\#}$ 62

Remove four toothpicks to leave two triangles.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#}$ 63

Add three toothpicks to make a letter of the alphabet.

Your Solution


## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem ${ }^{\text {\# }}$ 6 4

Add four toothpicks to make five squares.

## Your Solution



## Problem ${ }^{\#}$ 65

Add four toothpicks to make nine single squares.

Your Solution


## 

Remave two toothpicks to make three squares.

Your Solution


## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem ${ }^{\text {\# } 67 ~}$

Add twa toothpicks to make nine squares.
Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#}$ 68

Add eight toothpicks to make ten little triangles.

Your Solution


Problem ${ }^{\text {\# }}$ 69
Remove two toothpicks to leave four squares.

Your Solution


## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem \#70

Move two toothpicks to leave four squares.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#} 71$

Mave two toothpicks to get three more.
Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#} 72$

Add two toothpicks to make twelve squares.

Your Solution


## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem ${ }^{\# 73}$

Mave four toothpicks to make three squares.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#} 74$

Add two toothpicks to make five triangles.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\# 75}$

Add four toothpicks to make fourteen squares.

Your Solution


## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem ${ }^{\# 7} 7$

Remove four toothpicks to leave four rectangles.

## Your Solution



## Problem ${ }^{\# 77}$

Move two toothpicks to make the house face the other direction.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\# 78}$

Move four toothpicks to make three squares.

Your Solution


## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem \#79

Add four toothpicks to make ten triangles.

Your Solution


Problem ${ }^{\#}$ 时
Move two toothpicks to leave five squares.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#}$ |

Remove three toothpicks to leave one triangle.

Your Solution


## ToothpidE Problem-solving

## Problem ${ }^{\text {\#82 }}$

Add four toothpicks to make six triangles.
Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\# 8} 8$

Remove six toothpicks to make two squares.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#} 84$

Remave two toothpicks AND move one toothpick to make six squares.

Your Solution


## Toothpidk Problem-solving

Problem ${ }^{\# 85}$
Add eight toothpicks to make twenty-one squares

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\# 8}$ 仡

Remove three toothpicks to form the opposite.


Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\# 87}$

Remove three toothpicks to make three squares.

Your Solution


## ToothpidE Problem-solving

## Problem ${ }^{\# 88}$

Add one tothpick to make this one more.
Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\# 8} 8$

Mave two toothpicks to make nine squares.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#}$ G

Move three toothpicks to leave four squares.

Your Solution


## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem ${ }^{\#}$ "

Move four toothpicks to make five squares.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#}$ Q 2

Move four toothpicks to make three triangles

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#}$ Q3

Remove five toothpicks to make three squares.

Your Solution


## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem \# 44

Move two toothpicks to make a triangle.
Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\text {\# }} 95$

Remove four toathpicks to make four squares.

Your Solution


## Problem " 月 $^{\text {B }}$

Remove six taothpicks to leave one triangle.

Your Solution


## Toothpidk Problem-solving

## Problem ${ }^{\#} 77$

Move four toothpicks to make three squares.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\text {\# }}$ 8

Remove five toothpicks AND move two toothpicks to make one hexagon.

Your Solution


## Problem ${ }^{\#}$ G马

Remove six toothpicks to make TEN.
Your Solution


## Solutions

## Problem ${ }^{\#}$

 Problem ${ }^{\#}$ 2Problem ${ }^{\#} 3$


Problem \#4
Problem ${ }^{\# 5}$


Problem ${ }^{\#}$ 6


Problem ${ }^{\# 7}$


Problem ${ }^{\text {\# }}$

Problem ${ }^{\#}$ "


1: One large square and one little square.
3: $\quad$ One large triangle and one little triangle.
4: Four micro squares ( $1 / 4$ of a little square) inside each little square.

Problem ${ }^{\# 1}[0$


## Problem ${ }^{\#} \mid 3$



Problem ${ }^{\#} \mid 6$



Problem \#||


Problem ${ }^{\#} / 4$


Problem ${ }^{\#} \mid 7$


## Problem ${ }^{\# 18}$



11: Five little squares and one large square (composed of four little squares)
12: This is possible. Honestly.
13: $\quad$ Three little squares and four micro squares (inside one little square).
16: Four little triangles and four large triangles (each composed of two little triangles).
17: Five little triangles and one large triangle (composed of two little triangles).
18: Five little squares and four micro squares (inside one little square).

Problem ${ }^{\# 1}$ 保 Problem \# 2

Problem ${ }^{\#}$ 2|


## Problem ${ }^{\#} 22$



Problem ${ }^{\#} 23$


Problem ${ }^{\#} 25$



Problem \#2


Problem \#27


21: Six little squares and two large squares (composed of four little squares each).
22: Four little triangles and one large triangle (composed of four little triangles).
23: Three little squares and one large square.
24: One little square; one medium square; one large square (outside edges).
25: Four little squares and one large square (composed of four little squares).
27: Three little squares (composed of two rectangles each) and four micro squares (inside one little square).

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29: Two little squares and eight micro squares (four inside each of two little squares).
33: Four (4) is an even number.
34: Three little squares and one large square.
36: Three little triangles and one large triangle.


39: Four little squares and four micro squares (inside one little square).
41: Six little squares and four micro squares (inside one little square).
43: Two little squares and one large square (on the outside edges).


Problem ${ }^{\#} 49$


## Problem ${ }^{\#} 52$



Problem ${ }^{\text {\# } 50 ~}$


Problem ${ }^{\#} 53$


Problem \# ${ }^{\#}$


## Problem ${ }^{\#} 54$



47: Three little squares (each composed of four micro squares) and eight micro squares.
50: Two little squares and one large square (on the outside edges).
51: Three little squares and one large square.
53: Four little squares and one large square (composed of four little squares).
54: Two little squares and one large square.

Problem ${ }^{\# 55}$


Problem ${ }^{\# 5}$


Problem ${ }^{\#}$ Gi


Problem \# 56


Problem ${ }^{\#} 59$


Problem ${ }^{\#}$ 62


Problem \#57


Problem ${ }^{\text {\# }}$ 们


Problem ${ }^{\#}$ 63


55: Five little squares and eight micro squares (four inside the upper two little squares).
56: Two little triangles and one large triangle (composed of two little triangles).


Problem ${ }^{\text {\# }} 67$


Problem ${ }^{\# 7}$


Problem ${ }^{\text {\# }}$ 65


Problem ${ }^{\#}$ 㫙


Problem ${ }^{\text {\#7 }} 1$


Problem ${ }^{\#} 69$


Problem ${ }^{\#} 72$

65: "Little" is the key term. There are nine little squares.
66: Three little squares (composed of two rectangles each).
67: Four little squares and four micro squares (inside one little square).
68: "Little" is the key word here. There are now ten little triangles.
71: "Three more" than two is five (5). $3+2=5$.
72: Six little squares; four micro squares; two large squares (each composed of four little squares).

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Problem ${ }^{\#} 73$


## Problem \#76



Problem ${ }^{\# 7} 7$


Problem ${ }^{\text {\# }} 74$


Problem \#75


Problem \#77


Problem \#78


Problem ${ }^{\#}{ }^{\square} \mid$


74: Four little triangles and one big triangle (composed of four little triangles).
75: Nine little squares; four medium squares (composed of four little squares each); one large square (composed of nine little squares).
79: Eight little triangles and two large triangles (composed of four little triangles each).

Problem ${ }^{\# 8} 8$


Problem \# 05


Problem ${ }^{\# 8} 8$


Problem \# ${ }^{\text {佦 }}$


Problem \# ${ }^{\text {8 }}$



Problem ${ }^{\# 87}$


Problem ${ }^{\#}$ 碞


84: Two little squares and four micro squares (four inside the left little square).
85: Five little squares and sixteen micro squares (four inside each of four little squares).
86: A minus sign (-) is the "opposite" of a plus sign (+).
88: Six (6) is "one more" than five (5).
89: Five little squares and four micro squares (inside a little square).
90: Three little squares and one large square.

Problem ${ }^{\#}$ ㅁ


Problem ${ }^{\#} Q 2$ Problem \# Q $^{3}$


Problem " 85


Problem \# $^{7} 7$
Problem " 88



Problem ${ }^{\#}$ ㄴ


91: Four little squares and one large square (containing four little squares).
92: Two little triangles and two large triangles.

## How many squares?



One large square


Four little squares


## How many triangles?



One large triangle


Remove three toothpicks to make one triangle.


Add four toothpicks to make five squares.


Move two toothpicks to make three more.


