Computational problem solving incorporates four major concepts

Decomposition is the breaking down of a complex problem into a series of smaller or simpler problems (Think of a puzzle!).

Pattern recognition is the identification of common characteristics among different problems and within the same problem. Recognizing these patterns can further simplify the problem (Think of a magnifying glass!)

Together, these concepts comprise

computational thinking

or the process by which a problem is formulated and solved using a computer.

Algorithms are sequences of instructions used to solve problems or perform tasks in a structured manner (Think of a baking recipe!).

Abstraction is the generalization of a problem so that a solution can be applied to different specific problems (Think of the base of a tree!).

Source - IST 110: Information, People and Technology