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Web Programming Fundamentals

Activity: Problem Solving

A Cat, a Parrot, and a Bag of Seed:

**1)  Define the problem**

The problem is that there’s a man that want to cross the river, but he just can carry one item with him. He needs to take with him a cat, a parrot and a bag of seeds but he cannot leave them alone because they cat could eat the parrot and the parrot could eat the seed.

An insight is that the problem doesn’t show a limit number of trips that the man can make in his boat.

The overall goal is that the man has to take the cat, the parrot and the bag of seed to the other side of the river.

2)  **Break the problem apart**

The main constraint is that the boat has only space for the man and an extra item.

The sub-goal is that the man cannot leave the cat with the parrot alone and the parrot with the seeds alone.

3)  **Identify potential solutions**

First of all is that he will need to make four trips to transport all the items.

Then he will has to take first the parrot because it’s like the central object, then he has to return for the bag of seeds and take them to the other side, but he has to return with the parrot so it can’t eat the seeds. After that he leaves the parrot and take the cat to the other side and the he has to come back for the parrot.

Socks in the Dark:

**1)  Define the problem**

You have 20 socks of three different colors, but you don’t have any light to see and you need to match at least one pair and matching one pair of each color.

2)  **Break the problem apart**

The main constraint is that theirs is no light to see the socks. Another constraint is that there 3 different colors.

The sub goal is that you have to match one pair of each color at least.

3)  **Identify potential solutions**

A solution for matching one pair is to take three socks at the same time. And to match one pair of each color you must take 9 socks at the same time.