

KIDCODER: LET'S MAKE A CUP OF TEA!

ALGORITHMS



10MIN



25MIN

STAGE 1

AIM OF ACTIVITY



Sometimes we can know what to do to solve a problem but not how to do it. When we use computational thinking, we can figure out how to solve a problem step-by-step!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- The items needed to make a cup of tea – a mug, a tea bag, a teaspoon, a saucer, an empty kettle...

WHAT YOU'LL GET OUT OF IT

- Understand what it means to use algorithms
- Learn how to apply algorithms to making a cup of tea!

ALGORITHMS

Algorithms are step-by-step instructions that help us complete a task. It is all about doing things in the right order, like putting your socks on before your shoes when you get ready for school! By thinking about the steps for making a cup of tea, we can create an algorithm!



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ALGORITHMS



WHAT TO DO

(1)

The step-by-step algorithm of making a cup of tea can sometimes vary as people have their own specific steps. But there are certainly many ways to do it wrong!



(2)



Get into small groups of 3 or 4. Using the items needed for a cup of tea, we are going to make a wonky algorithm!

(3)

Going round each group, think of a step with the items that definitely won't help us make a cup of tea!

(4)

If you're not sure where to start, try – "Place a mug upside down on the table."
You can create as many wonky algorithms as you'd like!

USING IN THE CLASSROOM

In pairs, draw a picture to represent a wonky step in making a cup of tea. Swap your pictures with another pair and see if they can guess where your step went wrong!

TAKE IT FURTHER

Using some of the wonky steps you came up with, can you think of how to change it to make it a correct step in the algorithm. See if you can order them too!