

Problem-solving Squares

Instructions

This is another short and inexpensive but thought-provoking activity for discussion with youth, especially in older groups such as 4-H Junior Leaders. It can serve as a tool to demonstrate the type of thinking that results in effective problem-solving or as an exercise to help youth consider more than just one or two consequences before they act impulsively.

The drawing below can be placed on a poster board for use with larger groups. Each participant should be provided with paper and pen or pencil.

Present the drawing, have the participants count the number of squares they see and write down the number. Collect and list their responses, which are likely to range from sixteen to thirty.

Discussion topics

- How many squares did you see immediately?
- How long did it take you to find more?
- Did you ever make a decision only to find out later there was a simpler and better alternative?
- Describe some of the decisions you have made. What were your alternatives and what were the consequences for each choice?
- Who is responsible for the consequences?

