




Problem Solving - A Stations Lesson Plan




This lesson is meant to encourage and motivate children to persevere and work through difficult tasks. Although this lesson is specifically tailored for Grade 3, it can easily be adapted to suit any grade level K-6. Complete the lesson by following the instructions found in each section.

 Teacher Led	 Requires Computer OR Mobile Device	 Requires Spaces
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Learning Goals

1. Students will be able to identify problems.
2. Students will analyze a short story, and discuss the importance of problem-solving.
3. Students will reflect on strategies and skills needed to effectively and efficiently solve problems.

Materials

 Student Handouts	Pages 6-13 (worksheets for various stations/centers)
 Technology Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internet• Mobile device, tablet, or laptop
 Video/Audio Clips	The Problem with Problems By: Rachel Rooney
Miscellaneous Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crossword Puzzle Worksheet (Page 6)• Maze Worksheets (Pages 7-9)• Social Problem Solving Task Cards, Cut and Laminated (Pages 10-11)• Riddle Worksheet (Page 12-13)

Introduction

1. Students are asked to meet at the rug.
 - a. Discuss what it means to solve problems.
 - i. Using a whiteboard or chart paper, make a list of problems (with the input of students) and how each one can be solved.

I.E. My room is smelly ← I can clean up the food I left in there.

Read Aloud

Explain to students that you will be reading them a book today about communication. Tell them you want them to think about the miscommunication in this book and how things could have been said differently to avoid the disasters that happen.

1. Read or [show the book being read](#).
2. Following the story, ask students the following questions:
 - a. Why do you think it's important to solve the problems that come our way?
 - b. Do you think problem-solving is supposed to be easy?
 - c. Can you think of some ways we can become better problem solvers?

Effective Problem Solving

Explain the process of Problem Solving.



1. Take a deep breath
 - a. It can feel very overwhelming when you run into a problem that needs to be fixed. It's important to take a step back and breathe. You will be able to get through this.
2. Identify the problem
 - a. Make sure you understand the problem completely. You may even want to write it down.
3. Brainstorm Solutions
 - a. Make a list of possible solutions that could help you solve this problem.
4. Choose a solution
 - a. Decide on a solution from your list.
5. Try your solution
 - a. Follow through with your solution.
6. Evaluate the effectiveness of your solution
 - a. How was the outcome?
 - b. Were you successful in solving your problem?
7. Try again
 - a. If your solution did not help you solve the problem, choose another solution and repeat the process again until you have an outcome you are happy with.

You may even want to print and laminate these for students to refer to in the classroom.

Problem Solving Process

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Problem Solving Centers

Divide students up into groups. Explain to students that they will go around to 4 different stations/centers to practice their problem-solving skills. Students will only have 5-9 minutes at each station so they will need to work fast. Give them a 2-minute warning to take a picture of their activity and post their reflection in Spaces. (See directions on how to do this on the last page)

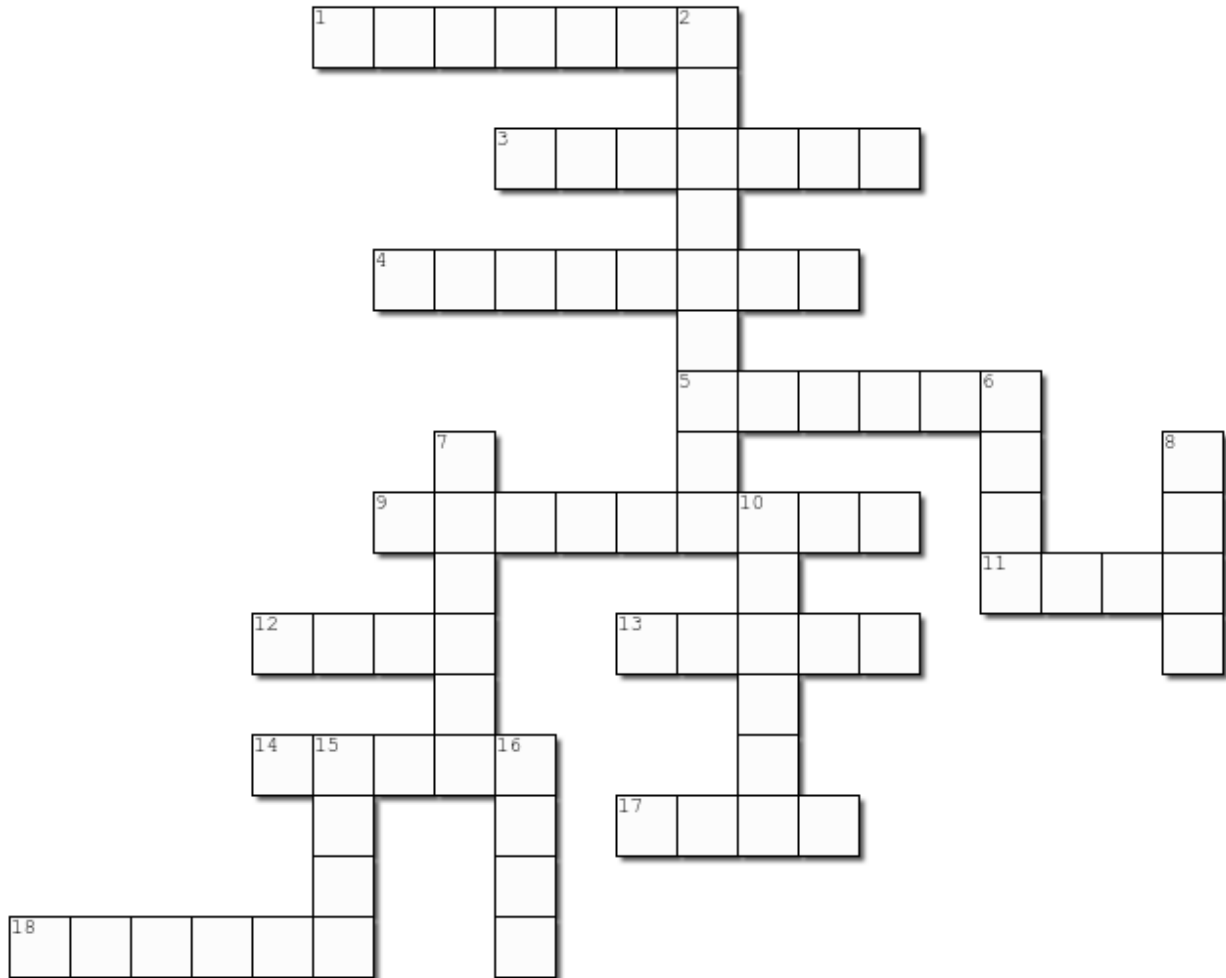
Stations/Centers

1. Crossword Puzzle Worksheet (Page 6)
2. Maze Worksheets (Pages 7-9)
3. Social Problem Solving Task Cards, Cut and Laminated (Pages 10-11)
4. Riddle Worksheet (Page 12-13)

Name: _____

Spring

Complete the crossword puzzle below then take a picture and post it to Spaces.


 Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

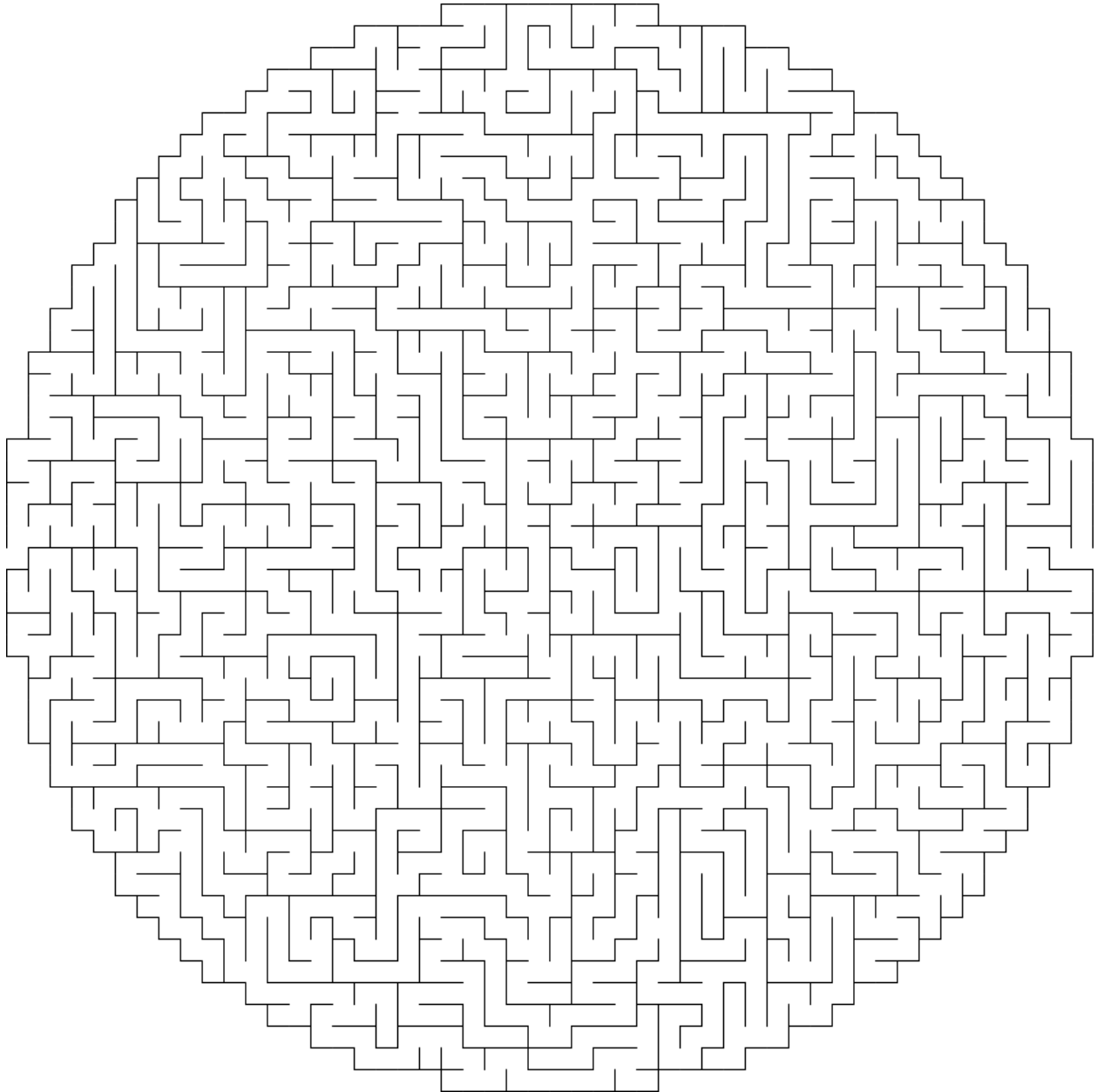
Across

1. April showers bring May _____
3. colorful arc in the sky after the rain
4. hold this to stay dry when it rains
5. open the _____ and let fresh air into the house
9. a caterpillar turns into a _____
11. ice and snow _____
12. plant a _____ and wait for a flower to grow
13. spring starts during this month
14. grass grows and turns the color _____
17. children go to the _____ and play
18. a place to plant flowers or plants

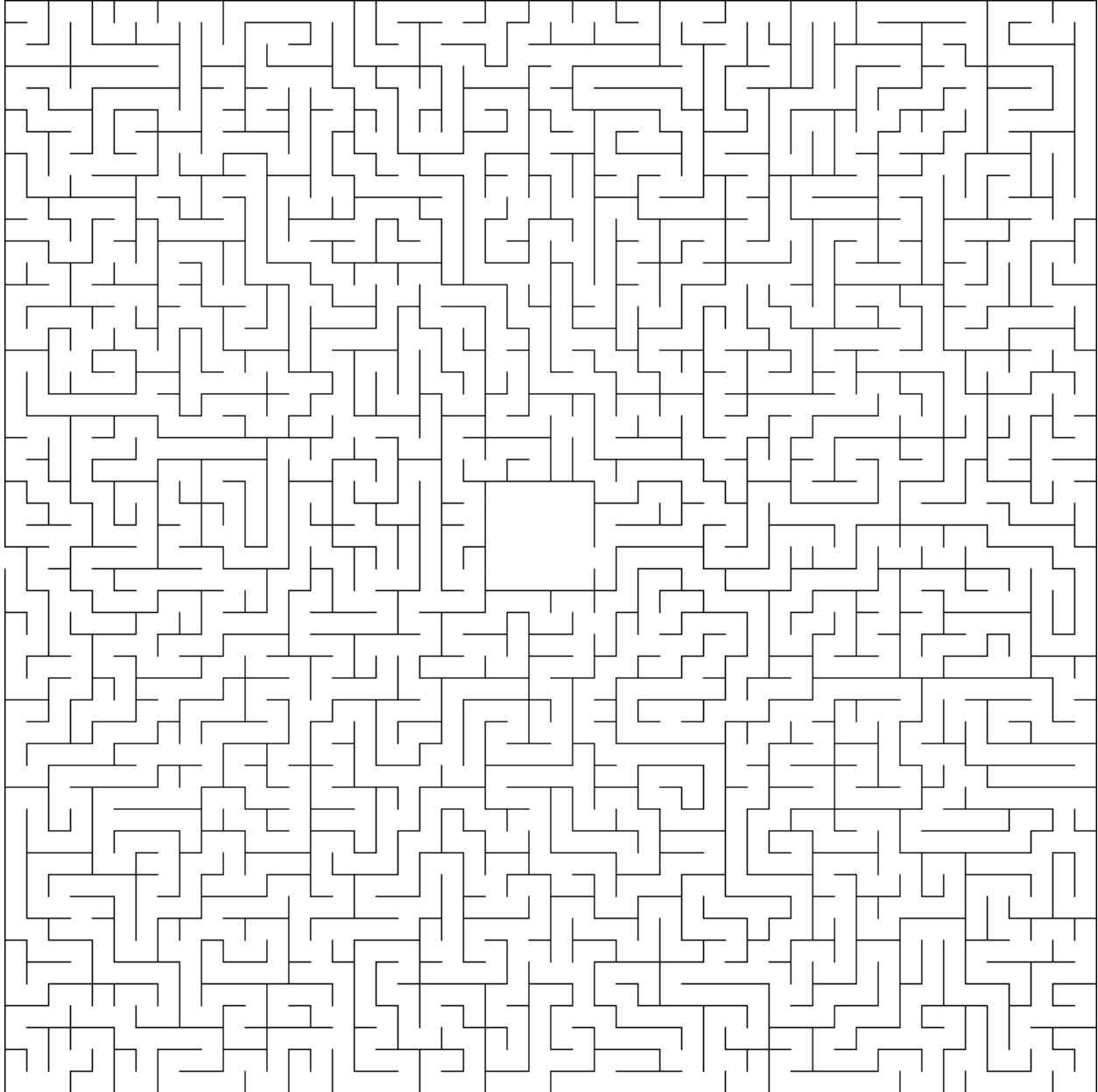
Down

2. a yellow flower that faces the sun
6. temperature that is not too cold and not too hot
7. rain gathers in one spot on the ground and makes a _____
8. fly a _____ on a windy day
10. a person whose job it is to plant crops
15. water falling from the sky
16. birds make a _____ to lay eggs

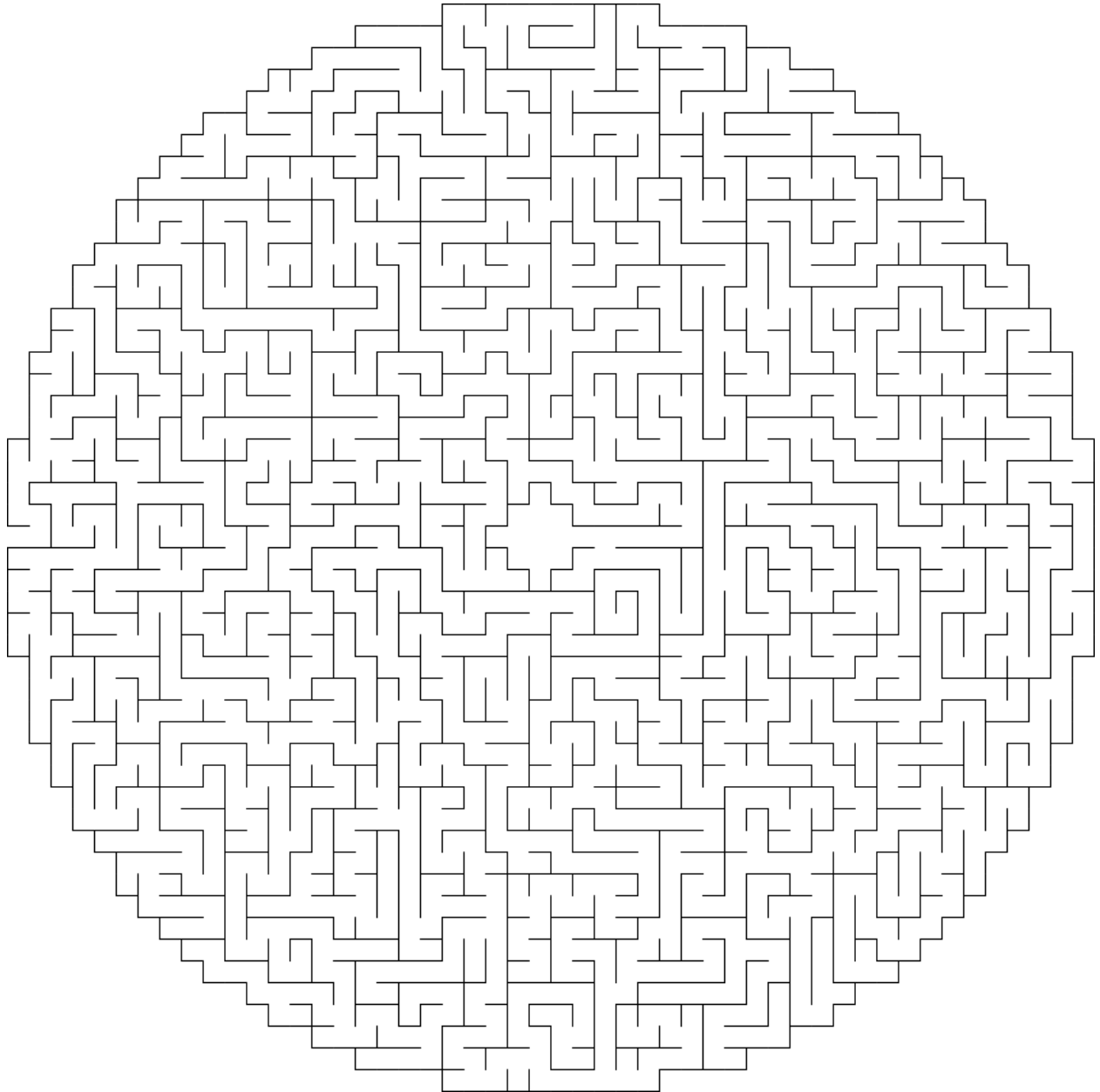
The Most Difficult Maze #1



The Most Difficult Maze #2



The Most Difficult Maze #3



Social- Problem Solving Task Cards

Suggestion: Cut & Laminate for durability

<p>1. After basketball practice you go back to the locker room with your team to shower and change. When you are done dressing, you can't find your shoes. What could you do?</p>	<p>2. You really want to invite this new girl/guy to come to your birthday party, but you have never talked to them before. You are worried they will say no. What could you do?</p>	<p>3. Someone wants to be your partner for a class project, but you don't want to work with them, what would you do?</p>
<p>4. The person who sits next to you keeps making loud sounds while you are trying to read your book, what could you do?</p>	<p>5. A boy at your lunch table always tries to take your food. What would you do?</p>	<p>6. Your friend just got a cool toy that you ask to see, but they tell you no. What would you do?</p>
<p>7. The person next to you in class keeps looking at your paper during a test. What could you do?</p>	<p>8. You hear a student lie to the teacher about something that happened at recess. What do you do?</p>	<p>9. Everyone is talking about their new cell phones, but you don't have one. What would you do?</p>

Name: _____

Your Answers- Problem Solving Task Cards

1. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	2. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	3. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
4. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	5. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	6. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
7. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	8. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	9. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Name: _____

Riddles

Directions: Write the answer and then check the answer key to see if you were correct!

Riddle #1: It belongs to you, but your friends use it more. What is it?

Answer: _____

Riddle #2: What kind of tree can you carry in your hand?

Answer: _____

Riddle #3: How do you make the number one disappear?

Answer: _____

Riddle #4: During which month do people sleep the least?

Answer: _____

Riddle #5: I can shave 25 times a day and still have a beard? What am I?

Answer: _____

Riddle #6: What two things can you never eat for breakfast?

Answer: _____

Riddle #7: What is always in front of you but can't be seen?

Answer: _____

Riddle #8: Bob's mother has three children. Their names are Hewey, Dewey, and?

Answer: _____

Riddle #9: How many months of the year have 28 days?

Answer: _____

Riddle #10: When Grant was 8, his brother was half his age. Now, Grant is 14. How old is his brother?

Answer: _____

Riddles- Answer Key

Riddle #1: It belongs to you, but your friends use it more. What is it?

Answer: Your name

Riddle #2: What kind of tree can you carry in your hand?

Answer: A Palm

Riddle #3: How do you make the number one disappear?

Answer: Add the letter G and it's "gone".

Riddle #4: During which month do people sleep the least?

Answer: February-it has the fewest nights!

Riddle #5: I can shave 25 times a day and still have a beard? What am I?

Answer: A Barber!

Riddle #6: What two things can you never eat for breakfast?

Answer: Lunch and dinner!

Riddle #7: What is always in front of you but can't be seen?

Answer: The future!

Riddle #8: Bob's mother has three children. Their names are Hewey, Dewey, and?

Answer: Bob!

Riddle #9: How many months of the year have 28 days?

Answer: All of them! They all have at least 28 days!

Riddle #10: When Grant was 8, his brother was half his age. Now, Grant is 14. How old is his brother?

Answer: His brother is 10. Half of 8 is 4, so Grant's brother is 4 years younger. This means when Grant is 14, his brother is still 4 years younger, so he's 10.

Documenting in Spaces

Teacher Tip! The instructions for this lesson involve adding to the Class or Individual Space in Spaces. You can adapt the instructions if you'd prefer to make this an Activity.

1. Students will document their learning in Spaces by following these guidelines:
 - a. Click **+ Create** > Choose **Camera** > Take a photo of the completed station worksheet
 - b. Add a **Title** > *[Choose the Title based on the Problem Solving Activity]*
 - c. Post a Description > Have students answer one or more of the following prompts:
 - Do you think you did a good job problem-solving at this station?
 - How successful were you? Did you accomplish the task?
 - *The answers to these reflection questions need to be simple and quick or this lesson will take a really long time. Simple one-word or sentence answers should suffice.*
 - d. Click **✓ Next**
 - e. Choose the **Class Space** or **Individual Space**
 - f. Click **✓ Post**

Expectations for each center's picture:

Stations/Centers

- Crossword Puzzle Worksheet- Take a picture of your worksheet
- Maze Worksheets- Take a picture of one of your worksheets
- Social Problem Solving Task Cards- Take a picture of your answer sheet
- Riddle Worksheet- Take a picture of your answer sheet BEFORE you check your answers