



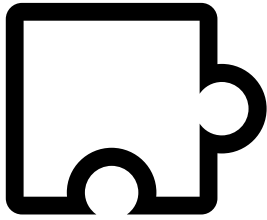
Problem solving

Age range: 11-19

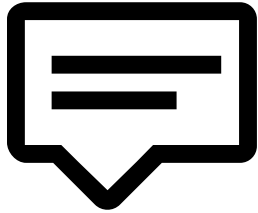
 **BARCLAYS** | LifeSkills



Why are core transferable skills important?



Problem solving



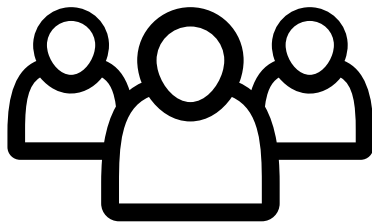
Listening
and speaking
(communication)



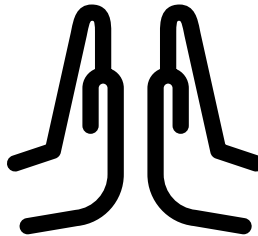
Creativity



Aiming high
(proactivity)



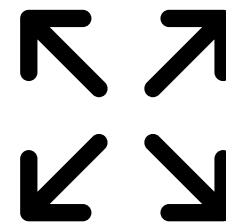
Leadership



Teamwork



Staying positive
(resilience)



Adaptability

Introducing problem solving

Problem solving is defined as the ability to find a solution to a complex situation or challenge.

This session helps to work towards steps 10 and 11 from the Skills Builder Framework for **problem solving**.

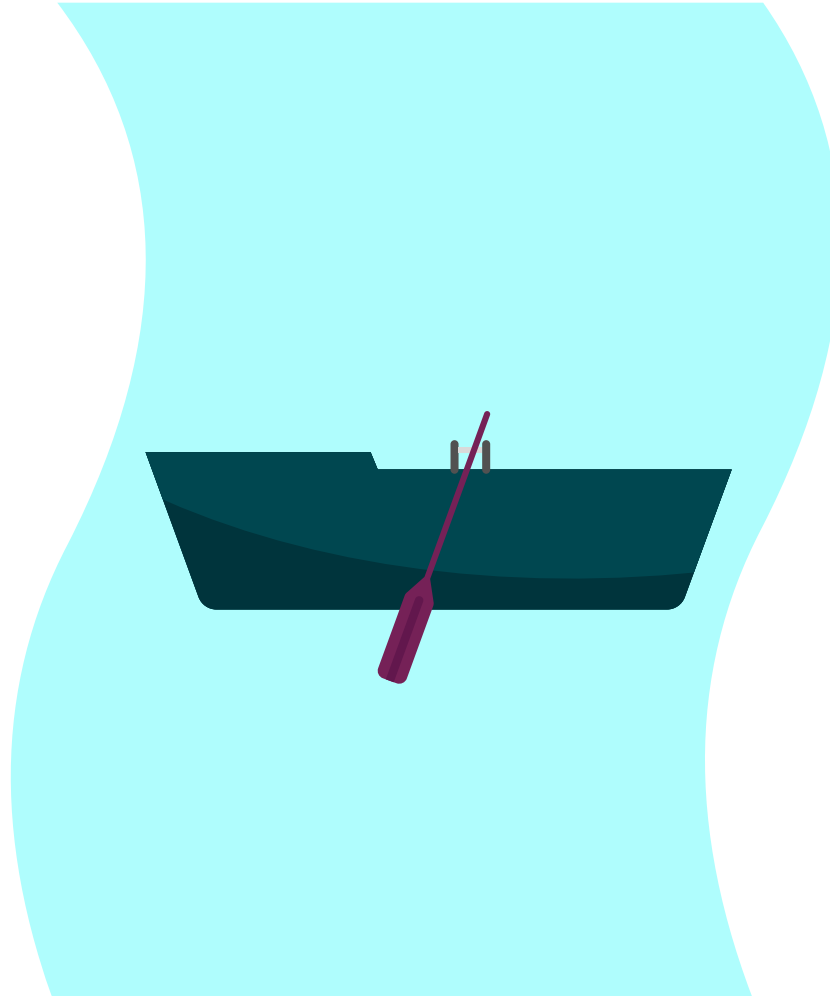


Introduction to problem solving

4



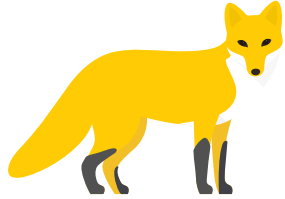
The puzzle



1. A man must get a fox, a chicken, and a sack of corn across a river
2. He has a rowboat, and it can only carry him and one other thing
3. If the fox and the chicken are left together, the fox will eat the chicken
4. If the chicken and the corn are left together, the chicken will eat the corn

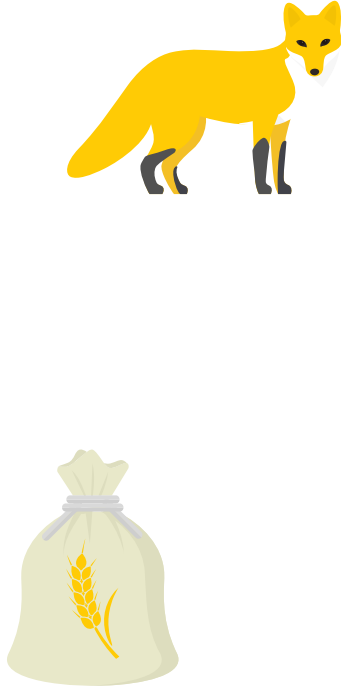
How does the man do it?

The solution

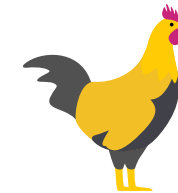


The man and the chicken cross the river, (the fox and corn are safe together).

The solution



He leaves the chicken on the other side and goes back across.

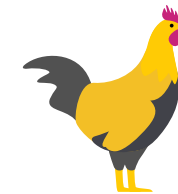


The solution

8



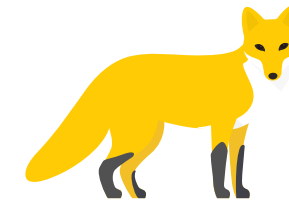
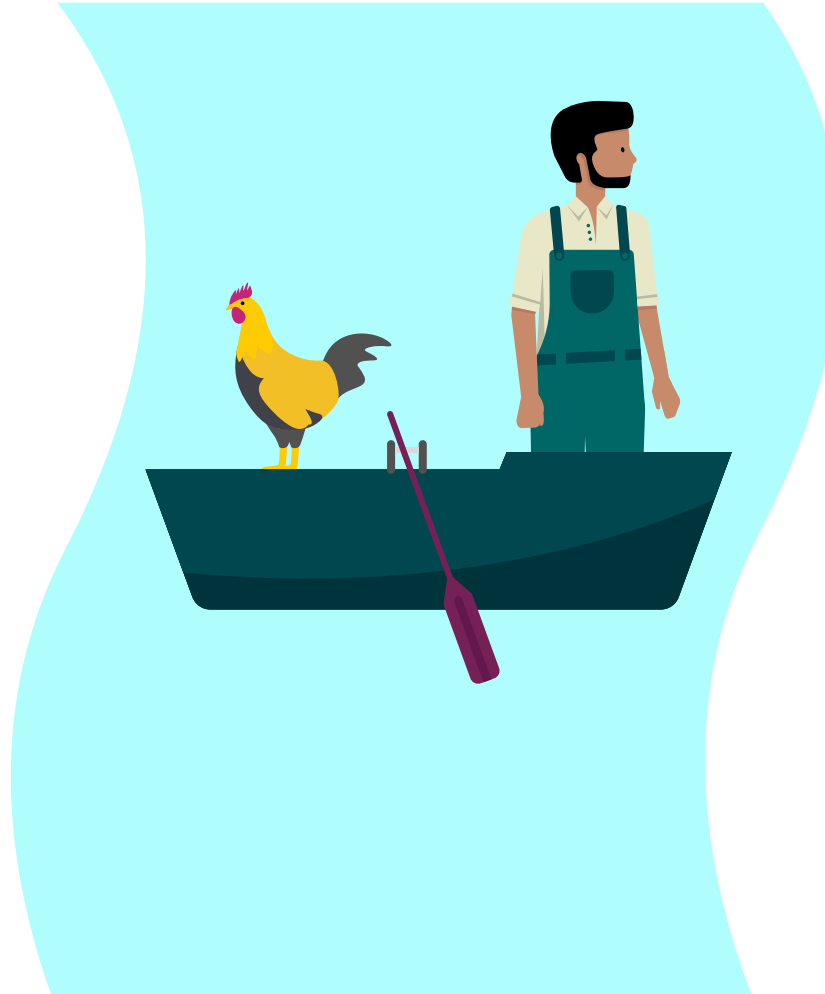
The man then takes the fox across the river.



The solution

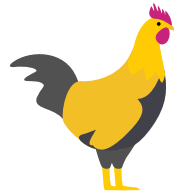
9

And since he can't leave the fox and chicken together, he brings the chicken back.

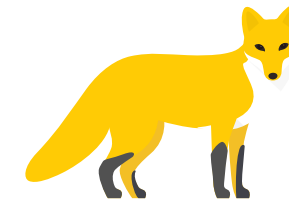


The solution

10



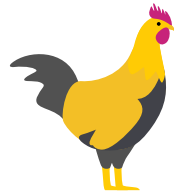
Again, since the chicken and corn can't be left together, he leaves the chicken and he takes the corn across.



The solution

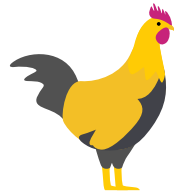
11

And leaves it with the fox.



The solution

12



He then returns to pick up the chicken.



The solution

13

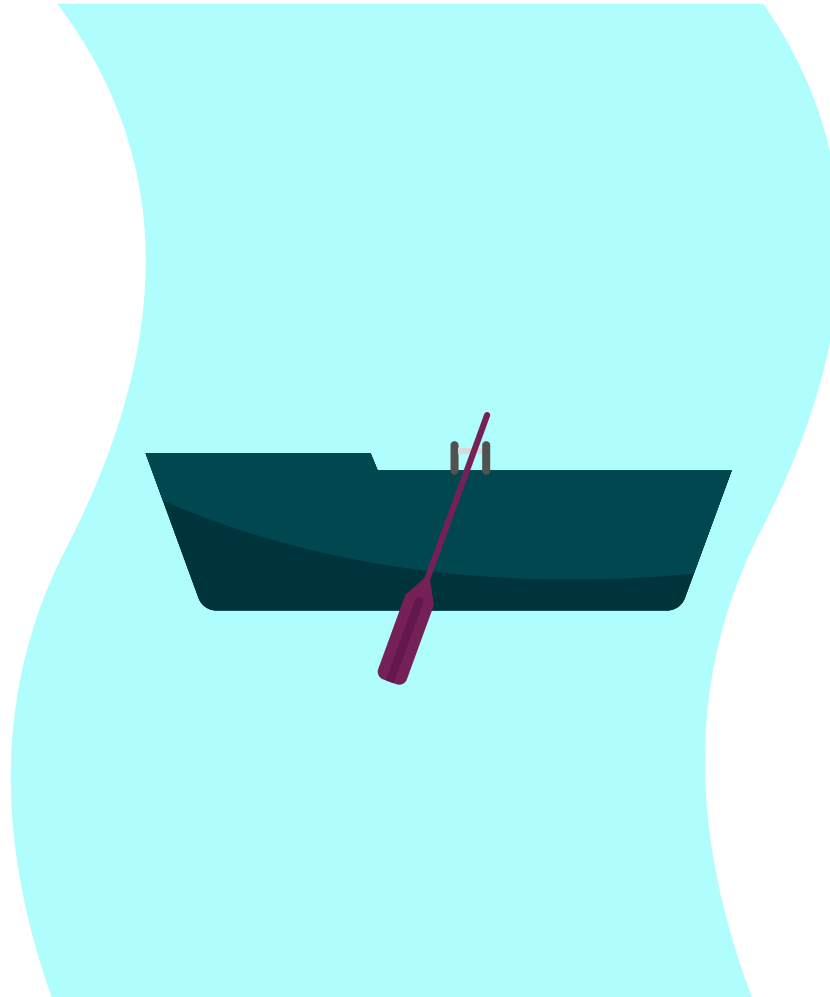


And heads across the river
one last time



The solution

14



And heads across the river
one last time



Problem solving film

15



Work scenarios

16



School raffle

The school is running a raffle to raise money for charity, but tickets aren't selling. How can you promote the raffle further in order to encourage more sales?



Polluted river

News outlets have been reporting about a plastic issue in a local river causing problems for wildlife, as well as polluting the river and its banks. How can you help with the pollution problem, including raising awareness of the issue of plastic pollution within your community?



CV

You wrote your CV a few months ago, listing out the grades you have achieved so far and a few things about yourself and what you do in your spare time. You sent it off to a few employers online but haven't heard a single thing back. It's been three weeks now. What can you do?

Work scenarios

17



Part-time work

You're searching for part time work waiting tables because you like talking to people and need to fit work in around college hours. Every time you approach somewhere, they want previous experience that you don't have.



Corporate social responsibility plan

The large supermarket chain you are employed by frequently receives negative press, this has led to staff feeling demoralised. Your boss has asked you to come up with a great new corporate social responsibility plan for your company which will really interest employees, and make people see the company in a good light, without costing too much money.



Paper/plastic waste

Your workplace does a lot of printing, often things are only printed for one meeting and you think that a lot of paper is being wasted. Everyone buys their lunch in plastic containers and eats with plastic cutlery. There also aren't any recycling or food waste bins in the office.

Your problem solving toolkit

18



Reflecting on problem solving

- Why is it important to consider a range of solutions for complex problems?
- How do you know whether your solutions are feasible?
- Why are causes and effects a critical part of understanding complex problems?
- How does working in a group impact coming up with solutions to problems?
- How could you demonstrate your problem solving skills in an interview?

