Using Anchor Tasks to Engage Learners

Deepening Understanding through Exploration and Discourse

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Professional Development

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Five Big Abilities

1. Number Sense
2. Visualization
3. Communication
4. Metacognition
5. Generalization

Anchor Task

Four Key Components

- Exploring
- Structuring
- Reflecting
- Journaling
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Problem 1: 3rd grade
Using all the pieces, how many different quadrilaterals can you make? How many that are 3 square units? 2 square units? 1 square unit?

Problem 2: 4th grade
There are 20 cookies in a sleeve of Girl Scout cookies. You and two friends each eat \( \frac{1}{4} \) of the sleeve. How many cookies did you and your friend eat altogether?
Problem 3: 5th grade
4 friends share 3 pizzas equally. What fraction of a pizza does each friend get?
What if 2 friends share the 3 pizzas?

Questioning for Differentiation

✓ Can you prove it?
✓ How do you know?
✓ Can you solve it another way?
✓ Can you draw a picture or make a model to solve it?
✓ I wonder how this is like what we practiced yesterday?
✓ Can you find a connection with something you already know?
✓ What if...?