

*Title of Lesson:* Connect the Dots

*Curriculum Unit:* Problem Solving; creative thinking

*Objective:* To understand that problem solving often involves looking at things from a different perspective

*Materials:*

- dots grid
- paper and pencil/pen

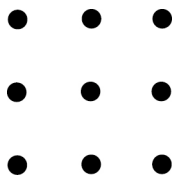
*Directions:*

1. Draw a grid of nine dots in three rows on the board or chart paper (see below for format). Tell students that their task is to connect all of the dots with four straight lines. They may NOT lift their pencil/pen off the paper and may NOT retrace any line. Lines may cross if necessary.
2. Give students a few minutes to work on the problem.
3. After about 5 minutes, ask if anyone solved the problem.

*Sample Processing Questions:*

- What did it take to solve this problem?
- Why is it that most of us do not think about going out of the “boundaries”?
- How can we help ourselves think “outside the box” when solving problems?
- How does this activity relate to your role as a leader?

*Dots Format:*



*Solution:*

