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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative

2007 Volume VI: Keeping the Meaning in Mathematics: The Craft of Word Problems

Percents in Real Life Situations

Guide for Curriculum Unit 07.06.06, published September 2007

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This unit, Percent in Real Life Situations, uses the concepts of percents to teach 9th grade students of the School District of Philadelphia how to solve word problems. It presents a template that can be used to translate percent word problems, in all forms, into mathematical sentences.

The unit is intended to be taught in four weeks with a focus on how to help students analyze open ended questions and Critical Response Problems (CRP) that are usually a component of regular Standardized State Tests. The template deals with a manipulation of the statement, "percent times whole equals part". Hopefully, math teachers will find this unit helpful as an added resource for their classrooms and lesson plans.

(Developed for Mathematics, grade 9; recommended for Mathematics and World Problems, grades 9-10)

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