

## Formative Feedback for Problem Solving

### Problem Sources

There are a number of good sources for problems and a few are listed below. Avoid using questions which are just exercises, testing an isolated skill. To provide the best feedback for problem solving, look for problems which are interesting and challenging.

- [Use NAEP released items](#) as a primary source for good questions. As of 2006, there were 600 math questions available. Although NAEP tests are given only at grades 4, 8 and 12, the items are fine for a variety of grade levels. For example, many 8<sup>th</sup> grade questions are accessible to 5<sup>th</sup> graders and the younger students will be proud to be working higher level problems.
- North Carolina [End-of-Grade sample questions](#) and [End-of-Course sample questions](#) are multiple-choice questions linked to North Carolina's 2003 Mathematics Standard Course of Study.
- [Indicators](#) tied to the objectives of the North Carolina 2003 Mathematics Standard Course of Study are valuable open-ended questions linked to specific curricular objectives. Look around on the "instructional resources" pages for additional sets of questions.
- **Textbooks** include challenging problems along with more routine questions.
- The North Carolina math curriculum consultants send out a "**Problem of the Week**" on their listservs.
- There is a fine "Problem of the Week" archive at [www.mathcounts.org](http://www.mathcounts.org)
- Math questions on the ACT and SAT tap problem solving. Practice questions are available from the test publishers and from private sources.