Introduction.
Sudoku is the biggest puzzle craze in years. The puzzles themselves have been around for many years in the U.S. and elsewhere under many different names, but they really caught fire in Japan during the 1990s. They were dubbed “su doku,” which is an abbreviated form of a Japanese expression meaning “single number.” Now people all over the world are discovering how enjoyable and addictive solving sudoku puzzles can be.

Rules.
The rules are simple. A quick look reveals that each puzzle is a 9-by-9 grid of squares divided into nine 3-by-3 square blocks, with some of the squares filled in for you. The object is to fill in the blank squares in such a way that each of the numbers 1 to 9 appears exactly once in each row, column, and block. If the puzzle has been constructed properly, there should be only one way to complete the diagram within the rules of the game. Despite this apparent simplicity, solving some sudoku puzzles can be complicated indeed.

Learning Goals.
Complicated problems can often be solved in different ways. You will use basic strategies, analyze your own strategies and describe them to others.

Problem Report.
You do not need to hand in a problem report for this.

Instructions.
Two of the most basic strategies to solve sudoku are illustrated below. Try to solve the three sudoku puzzles. Which other strategies did you use? Explain one of your strategies to someone else. What strategies do other people use?

1) Elimination on squares
2) Elimination on numbers