

Reflecting on Practice: Worthwhile Tasks

Session 2:

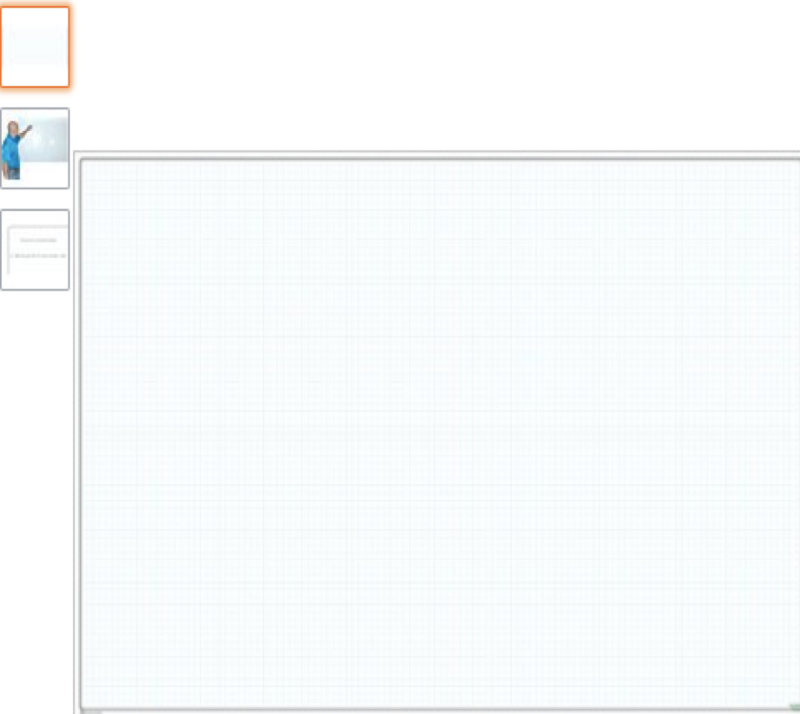
How to can teachers adapt tasks to
make them worthwhile?



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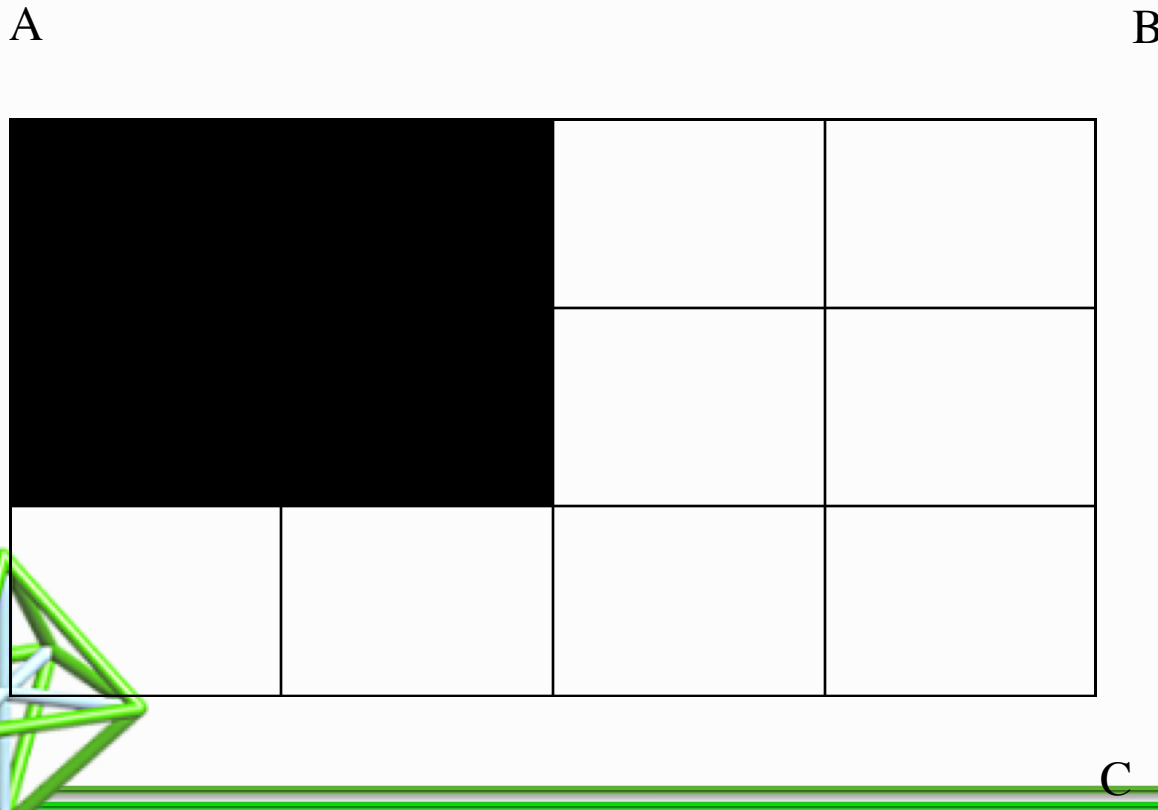
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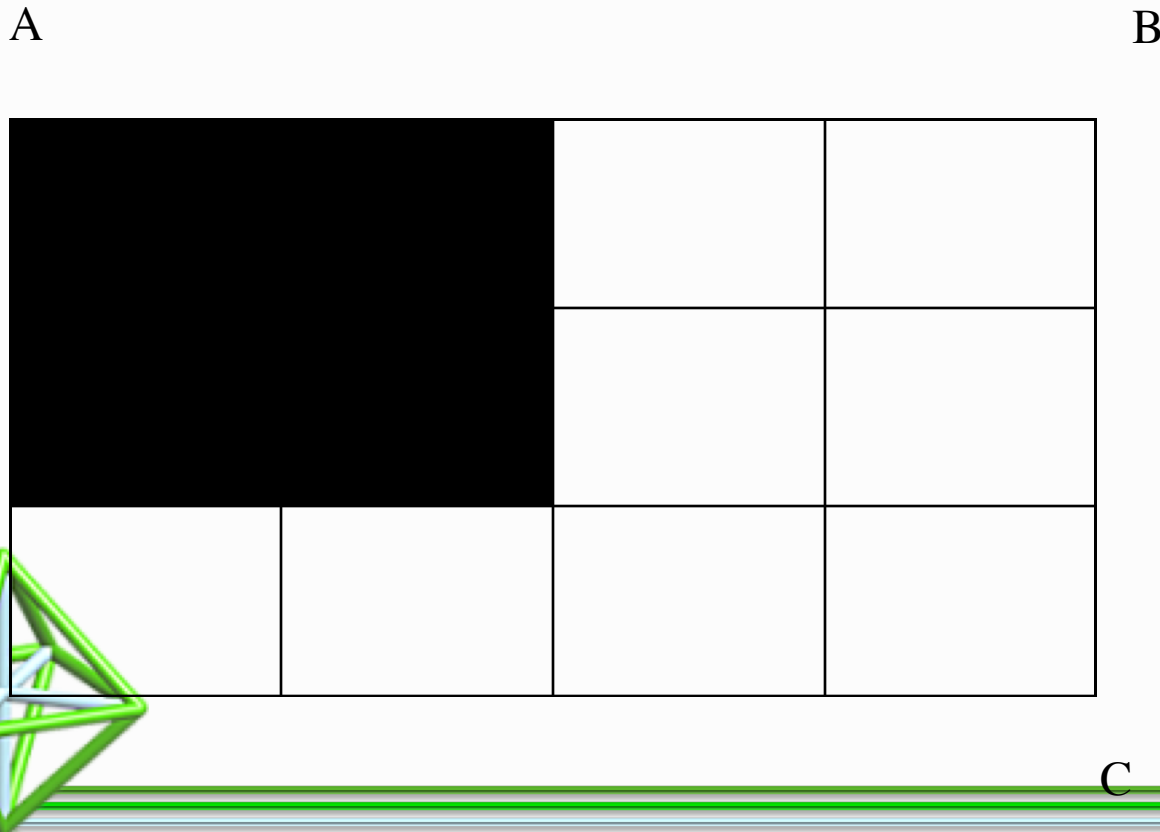
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In the figure below, what fraction of the rectangle ABCD is shaded?



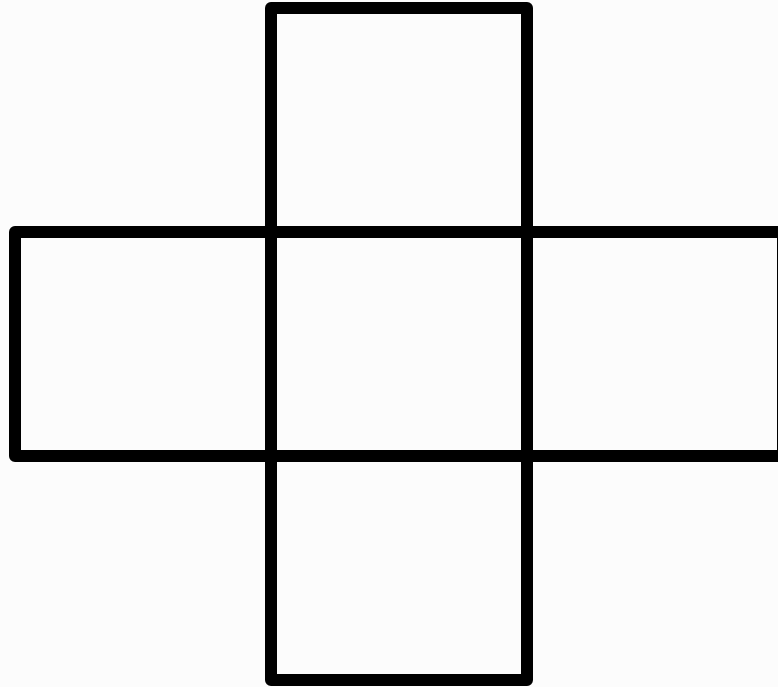
- a) $\frac{1}{6}$
- b) $\frac{1}{5}$
- c) $\frac{1}{4}$
- d) $\frac{1}{3}$
- e) $\frac{1}{2}$

In the figure below, what fraction of the rectangle ABCD is shaded?



- a) $1/6$ (5%)
- b) $1/5$ (3%)
- c) $1/4$ (24%)
- d) $1/3^*$ (66%)
- e) $1/2$ (2%)

Color $\frac{1}{4}$ of the drawing.

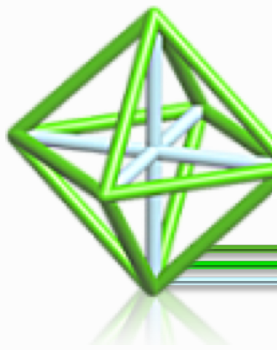
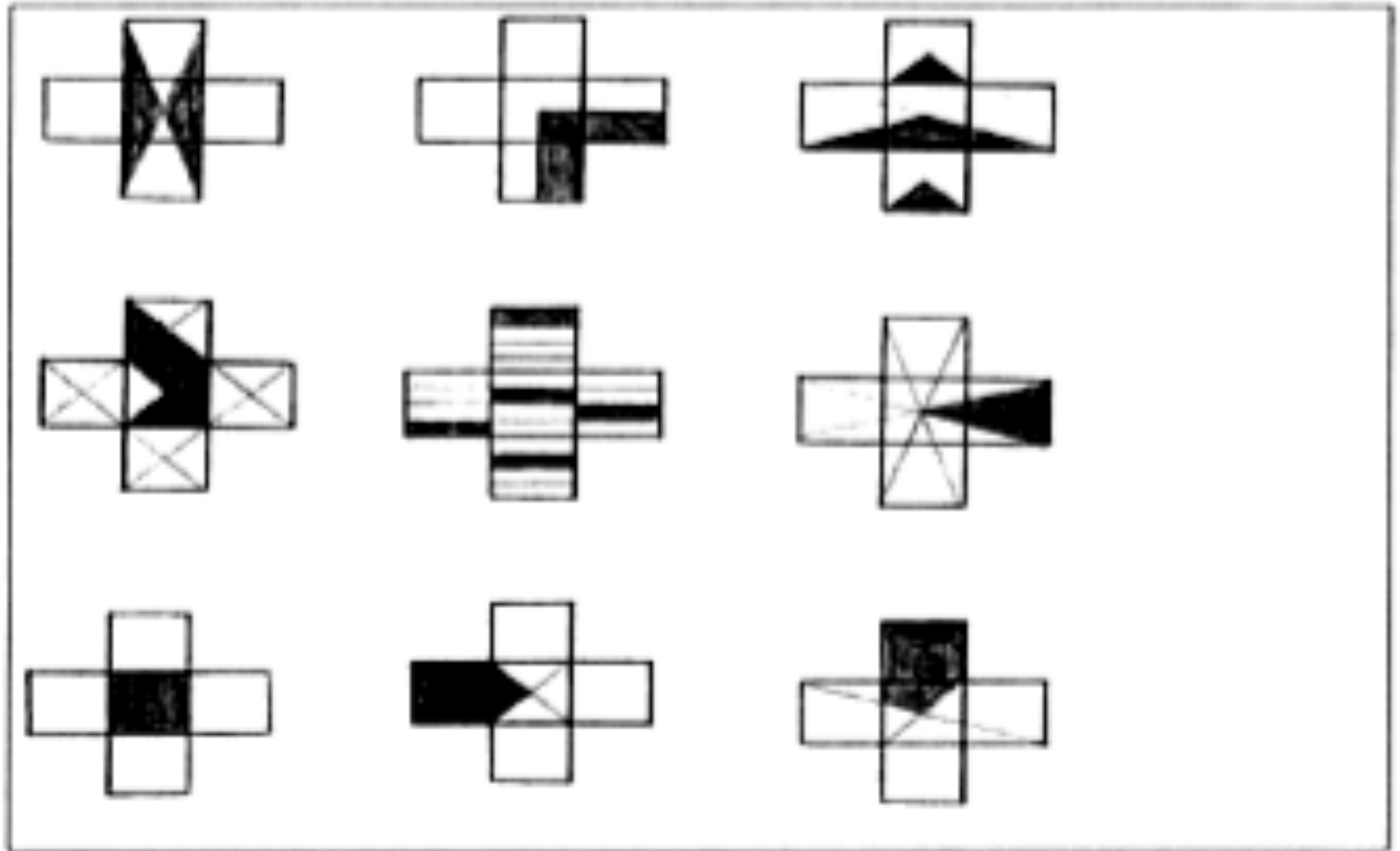


Another approach to $\frac{1}{4}$

(Dekker & Querrelle)



In which is $\frac{1}{4}$ of the shape shaded?



What did you like or not like about this task in terms of promoting discussion and eliciting student understanding?



Tasks should be chosen so that there is an opportunity for error in reasoning or thinking that opens up the ability to discuss or explain - not just an error in the next step (for example, lost a negative sign or multiplied incorrectly).



Jeopardy

Choose one of the tasks and find a solution.

1. Create a story for the problem 3 divided by $\frac{3}{4}$ and find a solution to the problem.

2. Create a system of equations that has the solution $(-2, 3)$ and explain how you determined your system. Tweak your system so the solution is the empty set.

3. Create an equation whose graph would be that in the figure.



Fig. 5 Students are asked to provide a possible equation to match this graph.

(Sanchez, 2013)



Pair Up

- Find another partnership at a different table who did the same task and discuss your solution with them.



Jeopardy

- We often call this approach Jeopardy ... Give students the answer and ask for the question.
- How did Jeopardy promote discussion and elicit student thinking and understanding?



Sorting – Given 16 different systems of equations, arrange them into groups. Create at least two different set of groupings based on shared characteristics of the systems.

$5x + y = 9$ $10x - 7y = -18$	$3x - 2y = 2$ $y = -10 - x$	$6x - 2y = 7$ $3x - y = 5$	$-14 = -20y - 7$ $10y + 4 = 2x$
$y = x^2 + 4x + 3$ $y = 2x + 6$	$2x - 3y = 6$ $6x - 18 = 9y$	$8x + y = -1$ $-3x + y = -5$	$x - y = 11$ $2x + y = 19$
$x^2 + y^2 - 4 = 0$ $2y^2 + x + 2 = 0$	$x^2 + y^2 = 25$ $x - y = 5$	$-4x - 2y = -12$ $4x + 8y = -24$	$3 + 2x - y = 0$ $-3 - 7y = 10x$
$x^2 + y^2 - 16x + 39 = 0$ $x^2 - y^2 - 9 = 0$	$-7x + y = -19$ $-2x + 3y = -1$	$x = 3y - 5$ $y = 2x + 4$	$2x - y = 3$ $y - 3 = 3x$

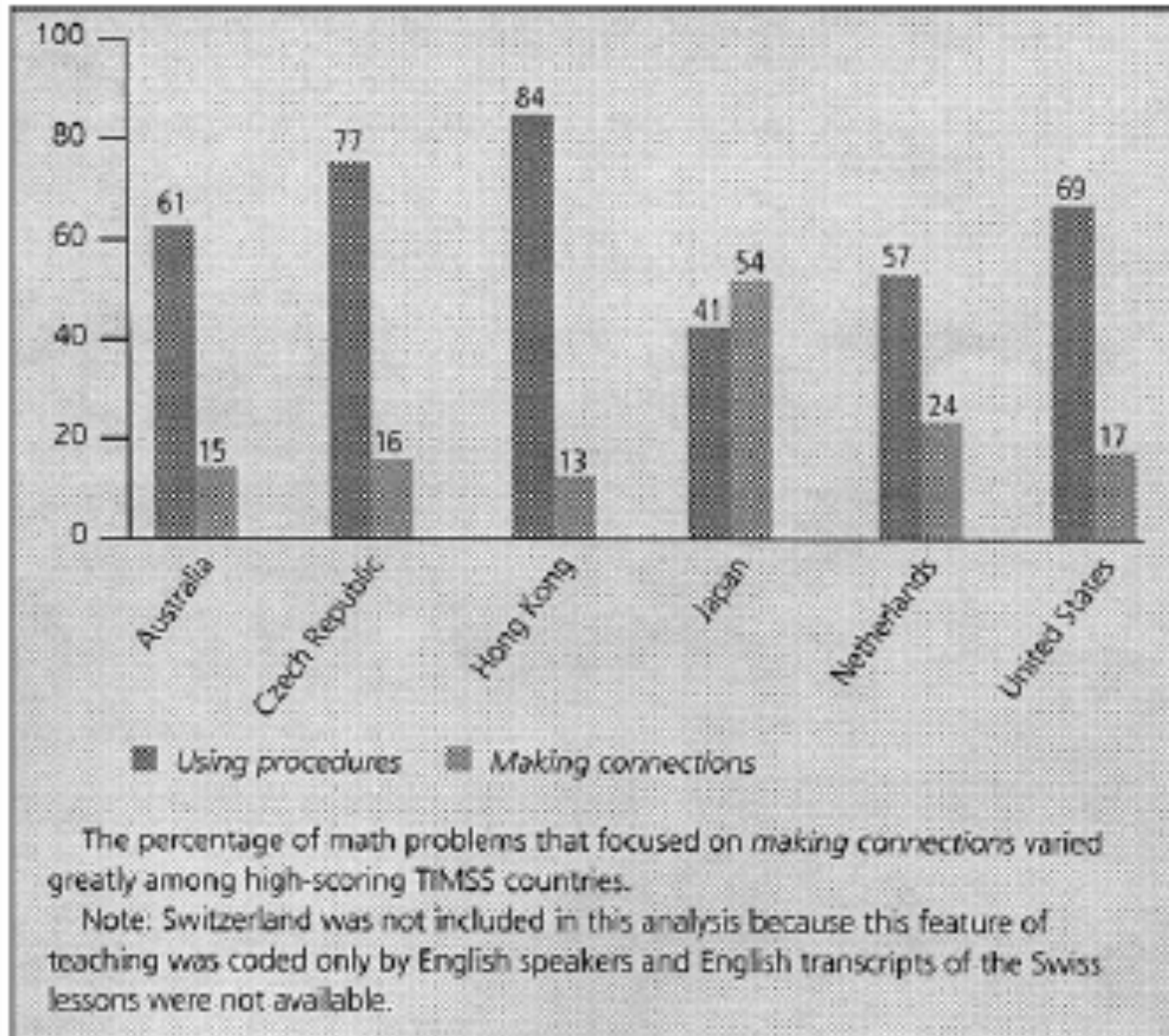
What mathematical ideas emerged during your discussions either with your partner or as a whole table?



How is this approach different from just working through a worksheet?

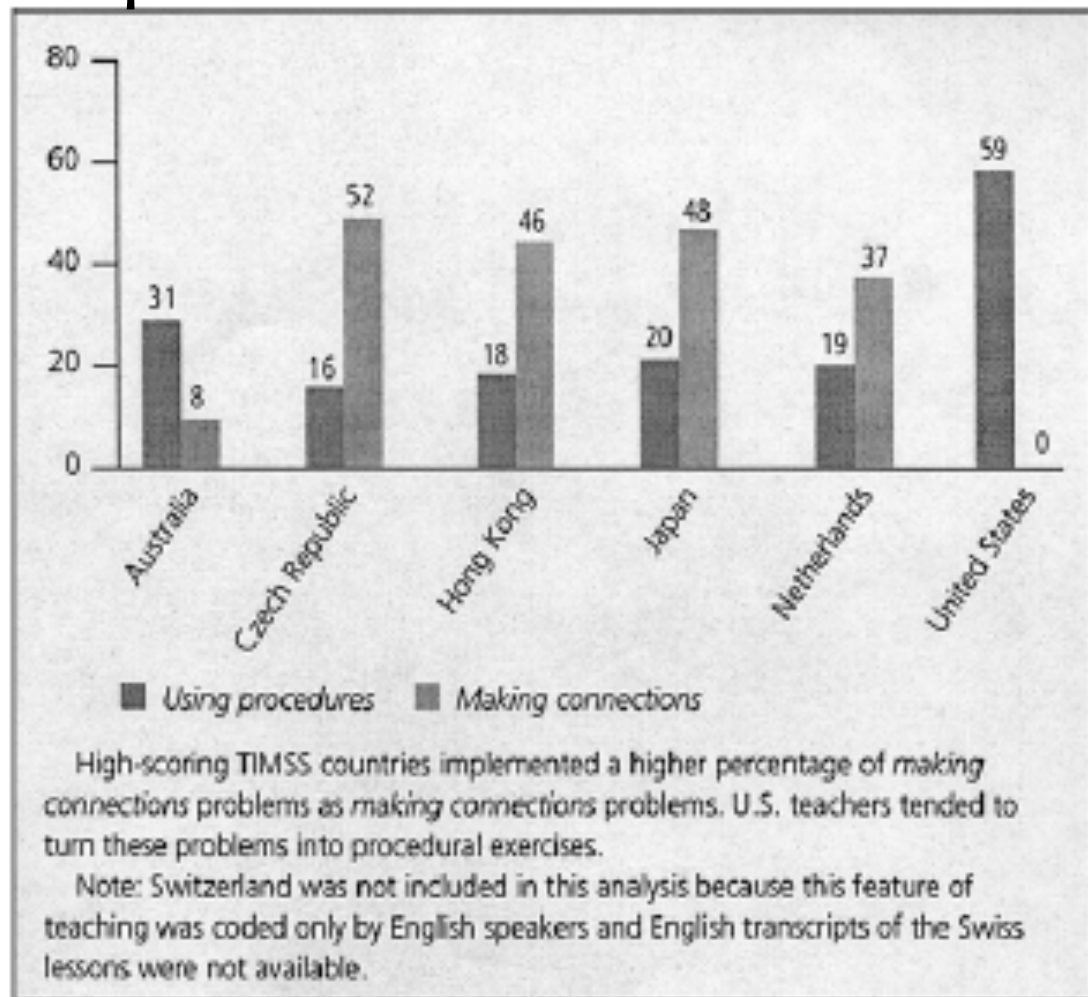
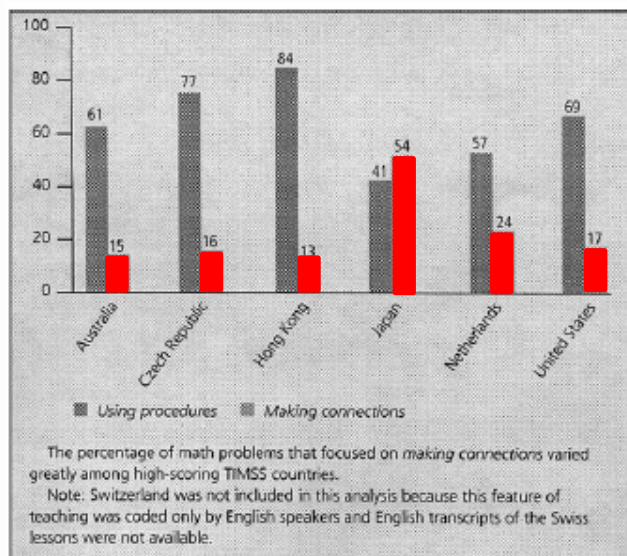


Types of math problems presented



Teacher implementation of the making connections math problems

Of the making connections problems...



Take a few minutes to reflect using the prompts in your notes:

- What is one message from this session that you would want to bring back to another teacher? How would you make it meaningful and accessible for them (when they haven't been here with you)?

On your Exit Card:

- What question would you like to raise for us to think about as we move forward?



References

- Dekker, T. & Querelle, N. (2002). Great assessment problems (*and how to solve them*). CATCH project www.fi.uu.nl/catch
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- Sanchez, W. (2013). Open ended questions and the process standards. 107(3). *Mathematics Teacher*.

