MY LESS MESSY IDEA

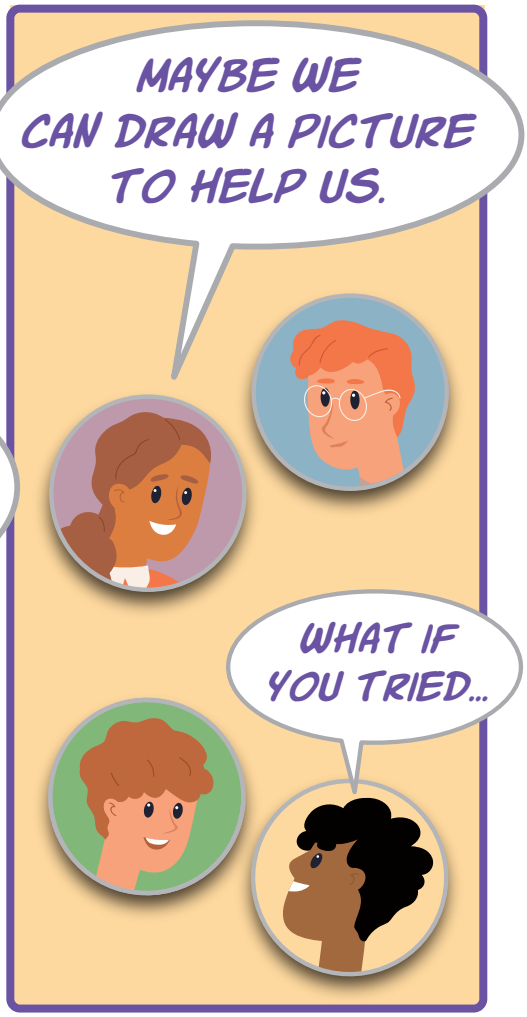
TRY IT

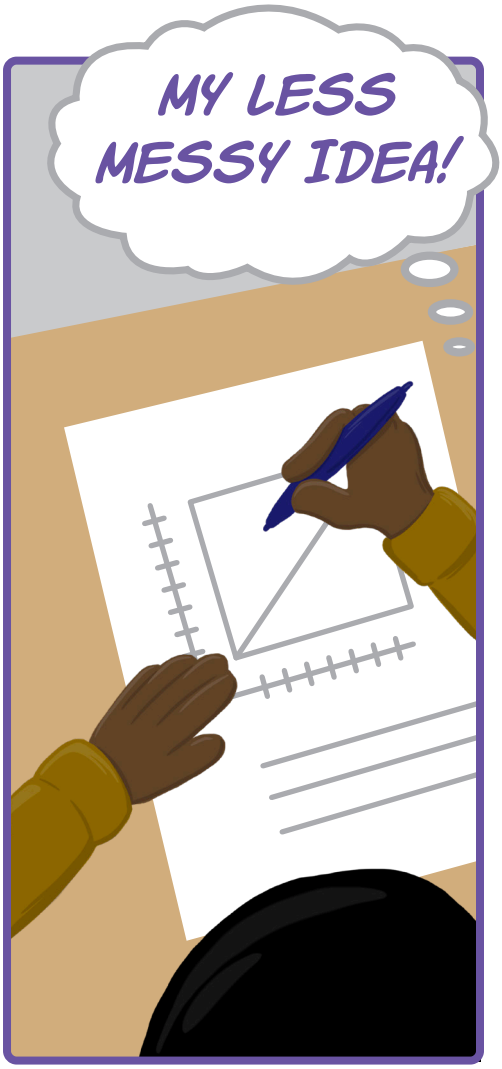
Have students write down their initial thinking, then discuss and revise their ideas with a partner before solving the problem formally.

WHY TRY IT?

- Supports students in exploring ideas without evaluation
- Promotes collaboration through revision and discussion
- Encourages reflection on how thinking changes over time







TEACHER NOTES

Messy ideas can include words, pictures, fragments, or questions as long as they help students begin the task. Consider giving students a goal for revising their thinking, such as making it clearer or more formal. Emphasize that these spaces are intended for brainstorming rather than polished solutions.

CAUTION Do not evaluate the "Messy Idea" areas. They should be safe spaces where students can share any ideas related to the problem without judgment.

Jansen, A. (2020). *Rough draft math: Revising to learn.* Stenhouse.