

Problem-Solving In Action

Understanding the Scope & Sequence Chart

The scope and sequence chart for the twenty **Mathematics Pentathlon**[®] games shows how each game addresses several mathematical content objectives. These objectives have been clustered into spatial/geometric reasoning, computational reasoning, and logical/scientific reasoning. **Mathematics Pentathlon**[®] games such as **Star Track**[™], **Kwatro-Sinko**[™], **Contig 60**[™], and **Fraction Pinball**[™], have obviously been designed to address computational reasoning. The key word here is reasoning. In each of the games mentioned, it is not sufficient to have computational skills alone, but to use those skills while deciding which of several options might maximize the player's ability to reach the game's goal(s). What is not so obvious is that each of these games has a spatial reasoning component based on either the design of the gameboard as in **Kwatro-Sinko**[™] or the game's goal as in **Contig 60**[™]. Another less obvious characteristic of a **Mathematics Pentathlon**[®] game may be its use of logical reasoning. Doing the first thing that occurs to a player may on occasion allow a player to win a game of **Star Track**[™] but this will rarely lead to a win in the other games. A player of each of these games is better served by making careful observations and use of inductive and deductive reasoning. Games such as **Kings & Quadraphages**[™], **Fiar**[™], **Queens & Guards**[™], and **Pent 'em In**[™] stress spatial/geometric reasoning. And, games such as **Shape Up**[™], **Par 55**[™], and **Stars and Bars**[™] emphasize logical reasoning. However, each of the twenty games integrate the three categories of mathematical thinking.

