

Two Tasks:

(Examples taken with permission from Stein, M.K., Smith, M.S., Henningsen, M., & Silver, E.A. (2000). Implementing standards-based mathematics instruction: A casebook for professional development. New York: Teachers College Press.)

Martha's Carpeting Task

Martha was recarpeting her bedroom, which was 15 feet long and 10 feet wide. How many square feet of carpeting will she need to purchase?

The Fencing Task

Ms. Brown's class will raise rabbits for their spring science fair. They have 24 feet of fencing with which to build a rectangular rabbit pen to keep the rabbits.

- If Ms. Brown's students want their rabbits to have as much room as possible, how long would each of the sides of the pen be?
- How long would each of the sides of the pen be if they had only 16 feet of fencing?
- How would you go about determining the pen with the most room for any amount of fencing? Organize your work so that someone else who reads it will understand it.