

# **Problem-Solving Strategy: Solve a Simpler Problem**

A.J. plays baseball. There are 7 teams in his league. For the baseball season, each team plays each of the other teams twice. How many games are in a season?

**UNDERSTAND**

1. What information is given in the problem? What do you know?

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**PLAN**

2. How can you solve the problem?

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**SOLVE**

3. How many games would be played if there were 2 teams? 3 teams?  
4 teams? 5 teams?

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4. Continue the pattern. How many games are in a season if there are 7 teams?

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**LOOK BACK**

5. **Write About It** How did solving the simpler problem help you find the answer?

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