

Name _____

Date _____

Topic: Math – ‘Halves, thirds and quarters’ – Exploring Fractions

Reading/Discussion:

A fraction simply means a part of a whole. Every time you share candies, or marbles and every time you cut a cake or a pizza so everybody can have an equal piece you are working with fractions.

Let's see how this works in math. A fraction is written down as two numbers separated by a line. If you and your friend share a pizza you will need to cut it in half – that means you will have 2 equal pieces. The number under the line in the fraction is called the **denominator**. This tells you how many pieces the whole was divided into. The pizza was cut into 2 so the number under the line will be 2. The number above the line is called the **numerator**. This tells how many equal pieces of the whole you have. You and your friend each get 1 of the pieces of pizza so the number above the line will be 1. So the fraction for one half looks like this: $\frac{1}{2}$.

That was easy, wasn't it? Let's try it with more parts. Suppose you cut the pizza into 3 equal pieces. What number would you put under the line (the denominator)? Yes, of course, a 3. Now, if you take just 1 of the pieces what number would you put above the line (the numerator). A 1, good, so the fraction would look like this: $\frac{1}{3}$ (one third). How many pieces of the pizza are left? There were 3 and you took 1 so there will be 2 left. We write the fraction like this: $\frac{2}{3}$ (two thirds). Which fraction do you think is the bigger, $\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{2}{3}$? Correct! As long as the denominators are the same the biggest fraction is the one with the biggest numerator because that has the most pieces.

Let's try it with marbles now. If you have 8 marbles and want to share them among you and your 3 friends you will have to make 4 small piles. Each pile will have 2 marbles in it. Because the original number of marbles has been split into

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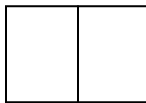
4, the denominator will be 4, and since you will each get 1 pile, the numerator will be 1. $\frac{1}{4}$ is called a quarter.

Activities:

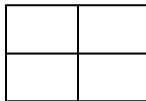
A Coloring and writing fractions

For this activity you will need 3 sheets of paper.

Take the first sheet and fold it exactly in half, then press your pencil down the crease so that it looks like this:



Take the next 2 sheets and fold them in half and in half again, and crease them so that they look like this:



Now color in one part of the first sheet. Can you write down the fraction of the sheet which you colored?

Then color in one square on the second sheet and three squares on the third sheet and write down those fractions too.

B. Working with fractions

1. Jimmy had $\frac{1}{3}$ of the pizza and Joan had $\frac{2}{3}$. Who had the most pizza?
2. If Joan took $\frac{3}{4}$ of the sweets for herself, what fraction would be left?
3. Johnny had 6 marbles, he took $\frac{1}{2}$ and Peter took $\frac{1}{2}$, how many marbles did each boy get?
4. Jimmy, Penny and Peter shared a cake. Jimmy and Penny each had $\frac{1}{3}$ of the cake. Did Peter have more, less or the same amount as they had?
5. Johnny had a packet of 6 sweets. He and Joan and Penny each had 2 sweets. What fraction of the packet did each of them have?

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Answer Sheet

Activity A

$\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$.

Activity B

1. Joan.
2. $\frac{1}{4}$
3. 3
4. The same.
5. $\frac{1}{3}$