

Dear Family,

Throughout the next few weeks, our math class will be learning about dividing whole numbers by unit fractions and dividing unit fractions by whole numbers. We will also learn how a fraction represents division.

You can expect to see homework with real-world problems that involve division with fractions.

Here is a sample of how your child will be taught to use a model to divide by a fraction.

Vocabulary

dividend The number that is to be divided in a division problem

equation An algebraic or numerical sentence that shows that two quantities are equal

fraction A number that names a part of a whole or a part of a group

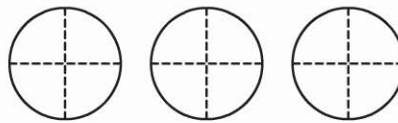
MODEL Draw a Diagram to Divide

Sue makes 3 waffles. She divides each waffle into fourths. How many $\frac{1}{4}$ -waffle pieces does she have?

Divide. $3 \div \frac{1}{4}$

STEP 1

Draw 3 circles to represent the waffles. Draw lines to divide each circle into fourths.



STEP 2

To find $3 \div \frac{1}{4}$, multiply 3 by the number of fourths in each circle.

$$3 \times 4 = 12$$

So, Sue has 12 one-fourth-waffle pieces.

Tips

Using Multiplication to Check

You can use multiplication to check the answer to a division problem involving fractions.

To check the answer in the sample, multiply $\frac{1}{4}$ by 12 and compare the product to the dividend, 3.

$$12 \times \frac{1}{4} = \frac{12}{4}, \text{ or } 3$$

Activity

Use real-world division situations such as sharing a pizza, pie, or orange equally to help your child practice division with fractions.