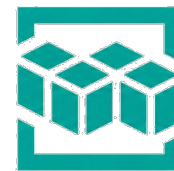




SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITY



What a Fraction Means

Fractions as Units

A fraction is a count of unit fractions



Grade 4



1–2 days



Class or group



Supports Lesson 1

About this activity



What it teaches

- A short 1–2 day lesson: a fraction is a count of unit fractions on a 0–2 line.
- Day 1 names fractions to 1; Day 2 iterates unit fractions past 1 and compares to 1.
- Four worksheets each day — two with halves/thirds/fourths, two with fifths/sixths/eighths.



Why it matters

- Students read the denominator as the unit fraction and the numerator as the count.
- Comparing a fraction to 1 becomes visible on the number line.
- Supports Unit 3, Lesson 1 — use it just before or right after the core lesson.

Materials & terms



Materials

- The two worked-example pages (4 and 9) to project or display.
- Four practice worksheets for each day (pages 5–8 and 10–13), printed.
- The quick-check page (14) and pencils.
- A straightedge for drawing on the 0–2 lines.



Terms

unit fraction

one of the equal units that compose 1

denominator

how many equal units compose 1 (the size of the unit fraction)

numerator

the count of unit fractions you have iterated

iterate

copy a unit fraction again and again, even past 1

compose 1

count unit fractions up to 1

equivalent

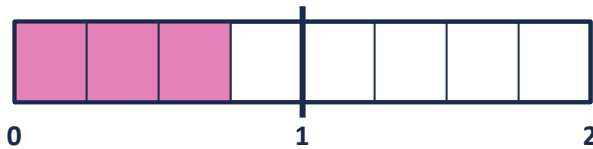
the same amount, named a different way



Day 1 — Naming fractions to 1

Worked example: three-fourths

$$\frac{3}{4}$$



1

The denominator 4 names the unit fraction, one-fourth: four units of one-fourth compose 1.

2

The numerator 3 counts the units: iterate one-fourth three times.

3

So three-fourths is 3 units of one-fourth — one unit of one-fourth less than 1.

SAY IT THIS WAY

“Three-fourths means 3 units of one-fourth. It takes 4 units of one-fourth to compose 1, so three-fourths is less than 1.”

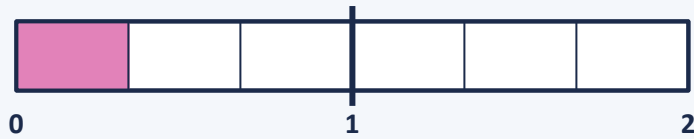
Worksheet 1.1 — build & name

Partition each 0–2 line into the unit fraction, iterate to the fraction, then compare it to 1.

Fraction	Partition & iterate on the line	Compare to 1
$\frac{1}{2}$		_____ than 1
$\frac{1}{4}$		_____ than 1
$\frac{3}{4}$		_____ than 1
$\frac{2}{3}$		_____ than 1

Worksheet 1.2 — name the fraction shown

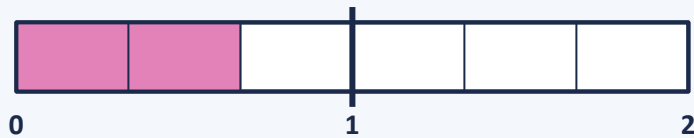
Each bar shows iterated unit fractions on a 0–2 line. Name the fraction and count the units.



Fraction: _____

Number of unit fractions: _____

Compare to 1: _____



Fraction: _____

Number of unit fractions: _____

Compare to 1: _____



Fraction: _____

Number of unit fractions: _____

Compare to 1: _____



Fraction: _____

Number of unit fractions: _____

Compare to 1: _____

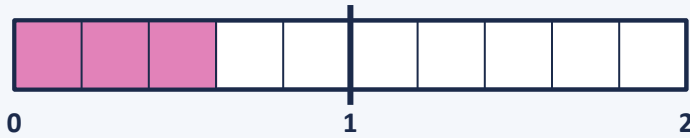
Worksheet 1.3 — fifths, sixths & eighths (build)

The same skill with smaller unit fractions. Partition, iterate, then compare to 1.

Fraction	Partition & iterate on the line	Compare to 1
$\frac{2}{5}$		_____ than 1
$\frac{5}{6}$		_____ than 1
$\frac{3}{8}$		_____ than 1
$\frac{5}{8}$		_____ than 1

Worksheet 1.4 — fifths, sixths & eighths (name)

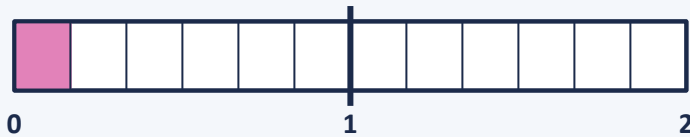
Name each fraction shown with fifths, sixths, and eighths, and count the units.



Fraction: _____

Number of unit fractions: _____

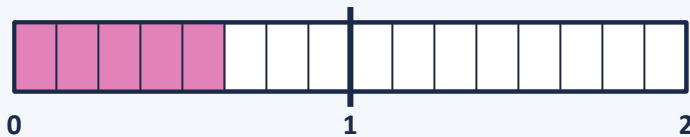
Compare to 1: _____



Fraction: _____

Number of unit fractions: _____

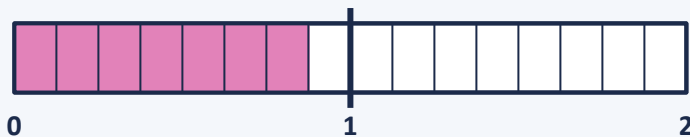
Compare to 1: _____



Fraction: _____

Number of unit fractions: _____

Compare to 1: _____



Fraction: _____

Number of unit fractions: _____

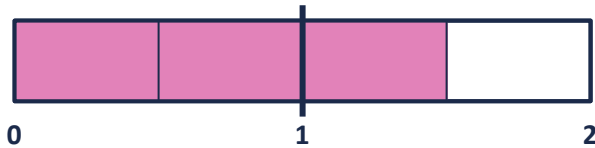
Compare to 1: _____



Day 2 — Fractions past 1

Worked example: three-halves

$$\frac{3}{2}$$



1

The denominator 2 names the unit fraction, one-half: two units of one-half compose 1.

2

The numerator 3 counts the units: iterate one-half three times — past 1.

3

Two units of one-half compose 1; one more unit makes three-halves greater than 1.

COMPARE TO 1

A fraction is less than 1 when the numerator is smaller than the denominator, equal to 1 when they match, and greater than 1 when the numerator is larger.

Worksheet 2.1 — build & name past 1

Partition each 0–2 line, iterate past 1, then compare the fraction to 1.

Fraction	Partition & iterate on the line	Compare to 1
$\frac{2}{2}$		_____ than 1
$\frac{3}{2}$		_____ than 1
$\frac{5}{4}$		_____ than 1
$\frac{4}{3}$		_____ than 1

Worksheet 2.2 — compare to 1

For each fraction, circle less than / equal to / greater than 1, and explain how you know.

$$\frac{3}{4}$$

less than 1 equal to 1 greater than 1

because _____

$$\frac{4}{4}$$

less than 1 equal to 1 greater than 1

because _____

$$\frac{5}{3}$$

less than 1 equal to 1 greater than 1

because _____

$$\frac{5}{4}$$

less than 1 equal to 1 greater than 1

because _____

Worksheet 2.3 — fifths, sixths & eighths (build)

Smaller unit fractions, at and past 1. Partition, iterate, then compare to 1.

Fraction	Partition & iterate on the line	Compare to 1
$\frac{5}{5}$		_____ than 1
$\frac{6}{5}$		_____ than 1
$\frac{8}{6}$		_____ than 1
$\frac{9}{8}$		_____ than 1

Worksheet 2.4 — fifths, sixths & eighths (compare)

Circle less than / equal to / greater than 1 for each, and explain how you know.

$$\frac{5}{6}$$

less than 1 equal to 1 greater than 1

because _____

$$\frac{6}{6}$$

less than 1 equal to 1 greater than 1

because _____

$$\frac{9}{8}$$

less than 1 equal to 1 greater than 1

because _____

$$\frac{7}{6}$$

less than 1 equal to 1 greater than 1

because _____

Quick check

Answer in words — no drawing needed.

1. A fraction is made of 5 units of one-third. Name the fraction and compare it to 1.

2. How many units of one-fourth compose 1? What fraction do they make?

3. Is seven-fourths less than, equal to, or greater than 1? How do you know?

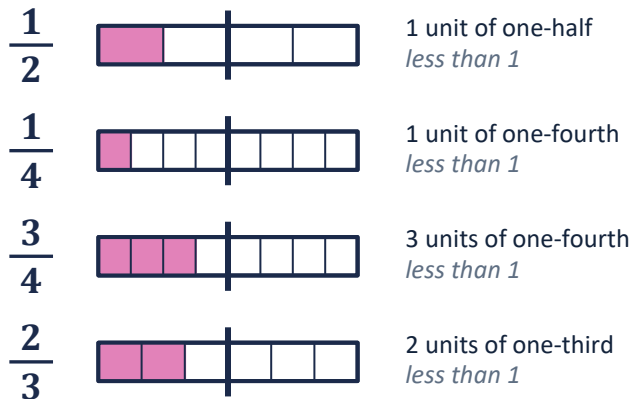
CONNECT BACK TO LESSON 1

Carry this language — “___ units of the unit fraction ___” — into the Lesson 1 bar-model worksheets.

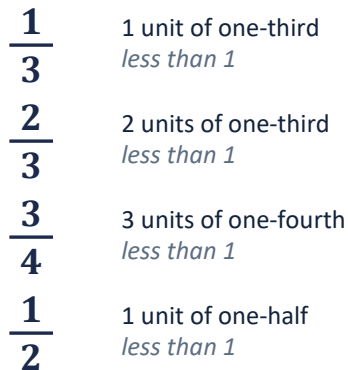
ANSWER KEY

Answer key — Day 1

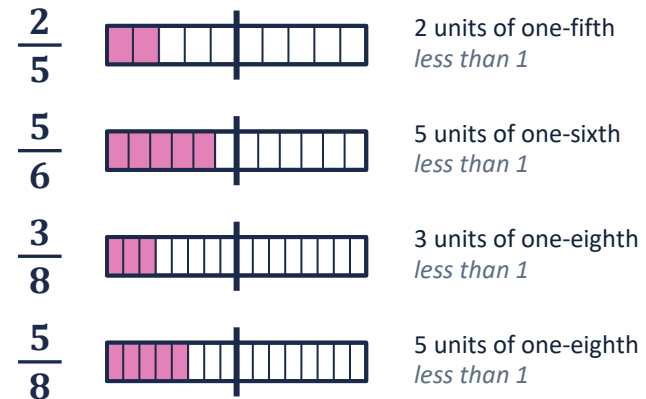
WORKSHEET 1.1 • build & name



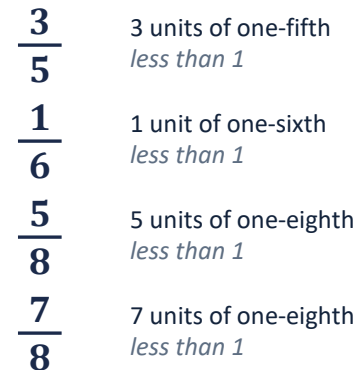
WORKSHEET 1.2 • name the fraction shown



WORKSHEET 1.3 • fifths, sixths & eighths (build)



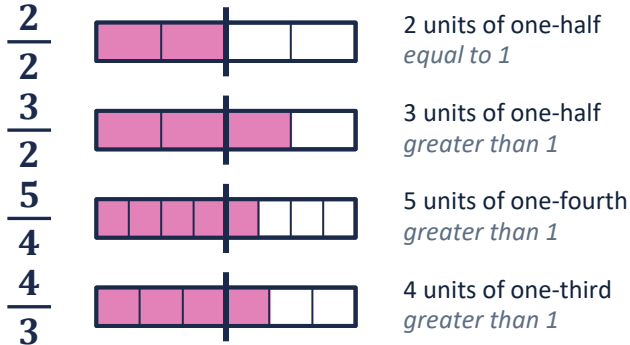
WORKSHEET 1.4 • fifths, sixths & eighths (name)



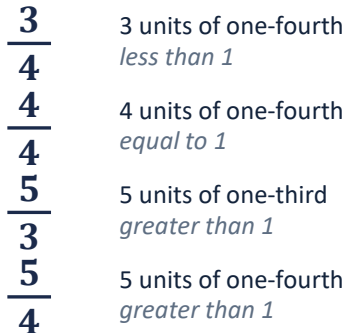
ANSWER KEY

Answer key — Day 2

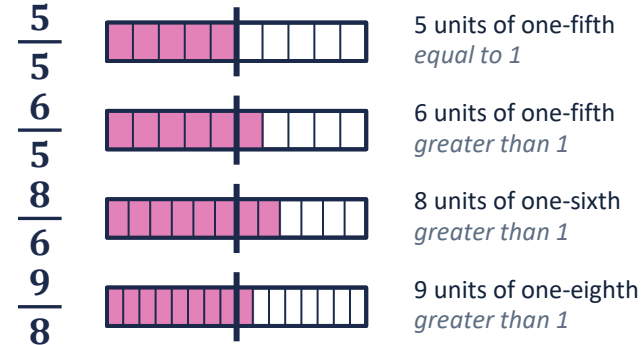
WORKSHEET 2.1 • build & name past 1



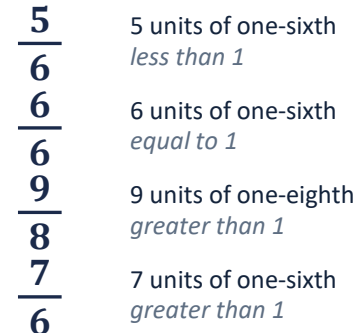
WORKSHEET 2.2 • compare to 1



WORKSHEET 2.3 • fifths, sixths & eighths (build)



WORKSHEET 2.4 • fifths, sixths & eighths (compare)



QUICK CHECK

1. five-thirds — greater than 1 (five units of one-third). 2. four-fourths = 1 (four units of one-fourth compose 1). 3. seven-fourths — greater than 1 (four-fourths make 1, plus three more units of one-fourth).

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