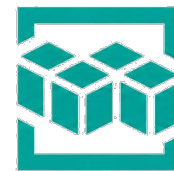




TARGETED ACTIVITY



Unit Fraction Match

Fractions as Units

Match each fraction to the unit fractions that compose it



Grades 3–5



10–15 min



Solo or pairs



Sets A & B • 20 pairs

About this activity



What's involved

- Match each fraction card to the bar that shows the same count of unit fractions.
- The denominator names the unit fraction; the numerator counts how many you iterate.
- Two 10-card sets: Set A uses halves, thirds, and fourths; Set B uses fifths, sixths, and eighths.



Why it matters

- Students read a fraction as iterated unit fractions, not as two separate numbers.
- Each set mixes fractions less than 1, equal to 1, and greater than 1.
- Comparing to 1 becomes visible — the bar fills to, or past, the tall tick at 1.

Materials & terms



Materials

- Set A fraction cards and bar cards (pages 6–7).
- Set B fraction cards and bar cards (pages 8–9).
- Print each set and cut the cards apart.
- A timer or stopwatch (optional), and recording paper.



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



Speed match — solo

- 1 Choose a set. Shuffle its fraction cards and bar cards, then lay them all face up.
- 2 Start a timer. Match each fraction to the bar that shows the same number of unit fractions.
- 3 Set each correct pair aside. For a wrong match, return both cards and add 15 seconds.
- 4 Stop when every pair is matched: final time = total time + 15 s × wrong matches.
- 5 Play again, or move up to Set B and beat your best time.

**TIP**

Read the denominator first — it names the size of each unit fraction.

Then count how many units are shaded, and check against the tall tick at 1.



Speed match — pairs

- 1 Choose a set and lay all its cards face up between both players.
- 2 Both players search at once. When you see a match, say “Match!” and take both cards.
- 3 If the match is correct, keep the pair. If not, return both — your partner gets a free turn.
- 4 Keep searching until every pair is matched.
- 5 The player with the most pairs wins.



TIP

A fraction with a numerator larger than its denominator lands past 1.

Its bar fills beyond the tall tick at 1.

Set A — fraction cards

Halves, thirds, and fourths. Print and cut apart. Each fraction matches one Set A bar card.

$$\frac{1}{2}$$

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

$$\frac{1}{4}$$

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

$$\frac{1}{3}$$

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

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

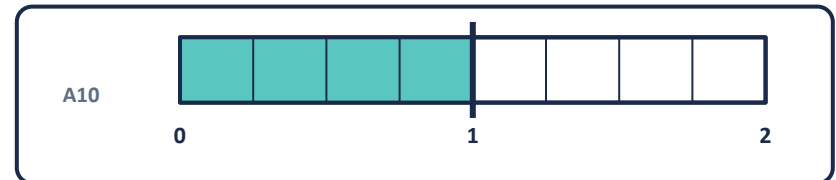
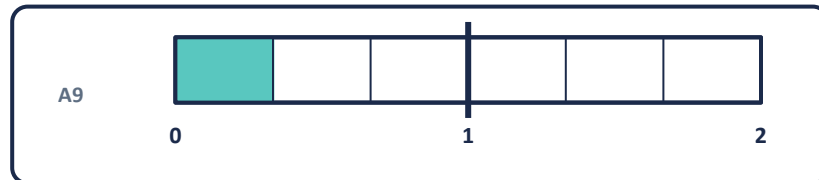
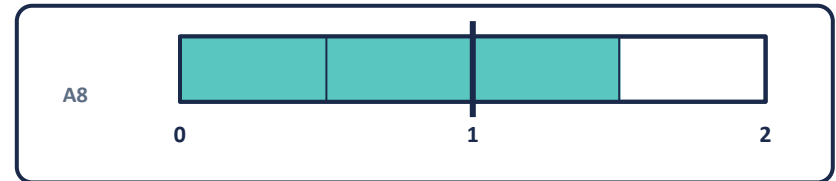
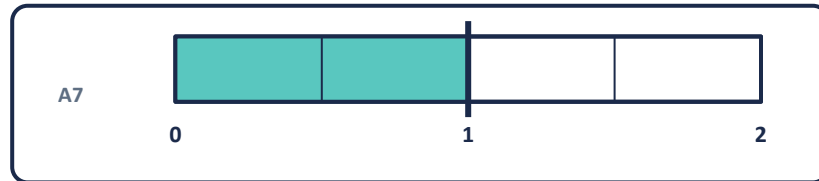
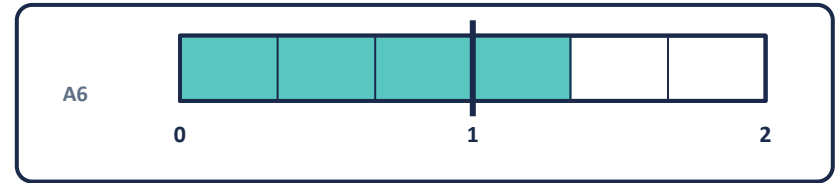
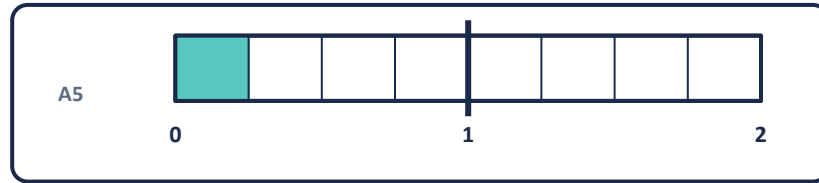
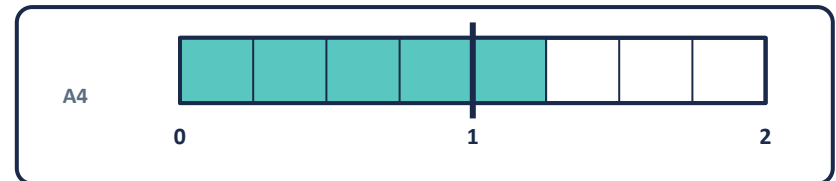
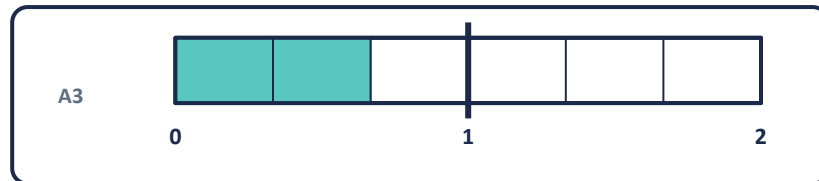
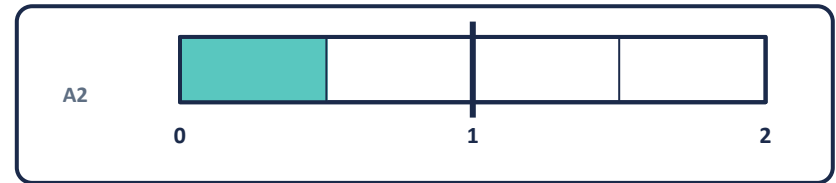
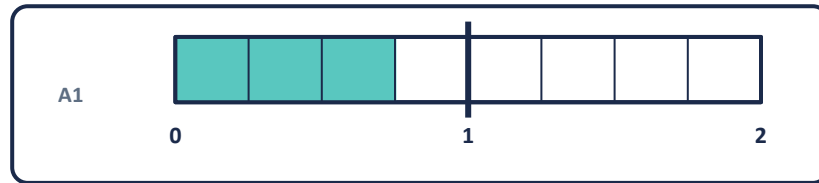
$$\frac{3}{2}$$

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

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

Set A — unit-fraction bar cards

Each bar shows a fraction as iterated unit fractions on a 0–2 line (the tall tick marks 1).



Set B — fraction cards

Fifths, sixths, and eighths — some less than 1, some equal to 1, some greater than 1.

$$\frac{2}{5}$$

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

$$\frac{7}{5}$$

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

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

$$\frac{9}{6}$$

$$\frac{3}{8}$$

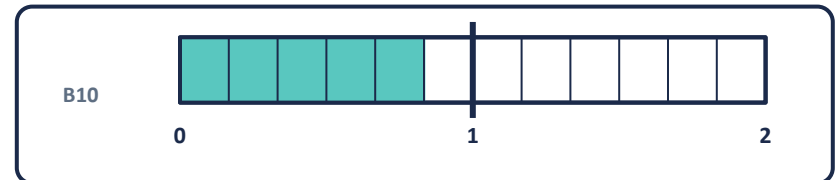
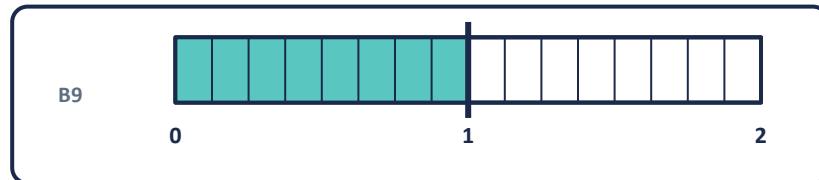
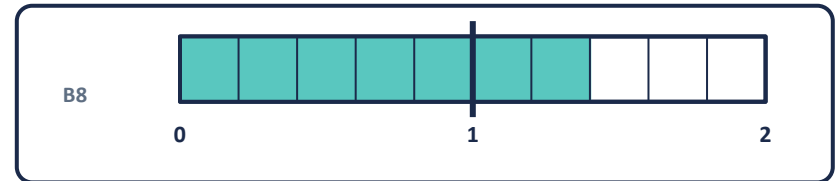
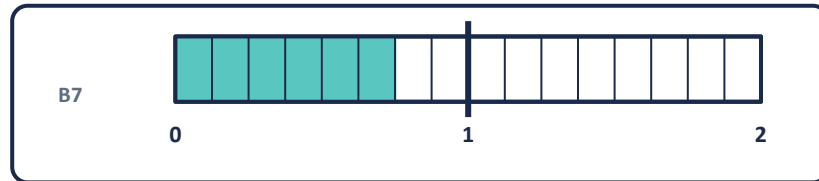
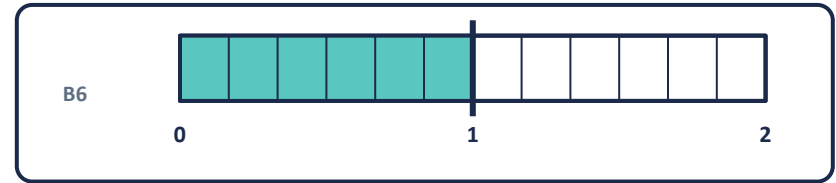
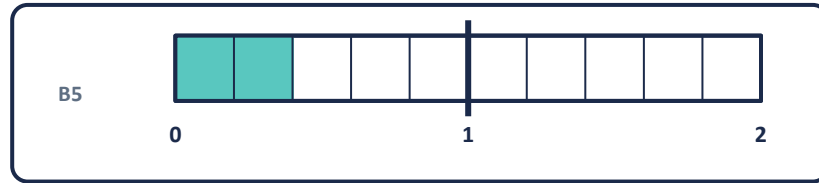
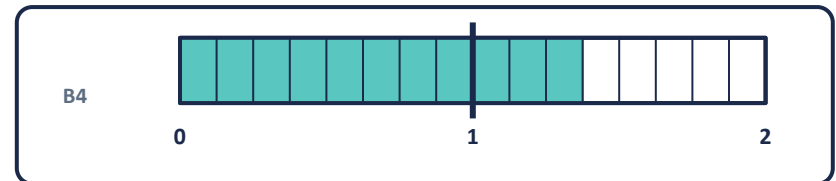
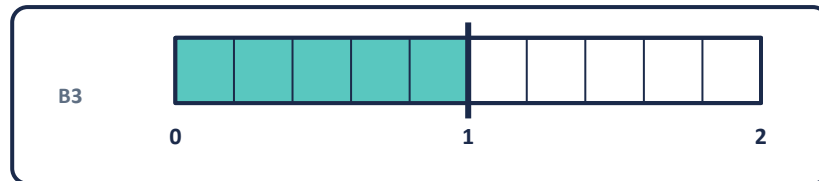
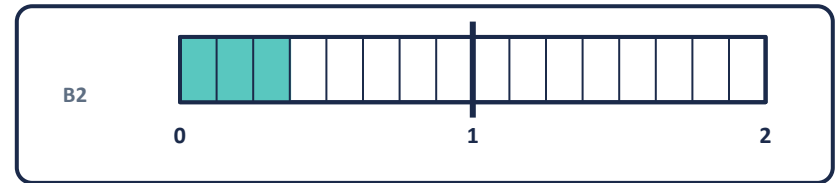
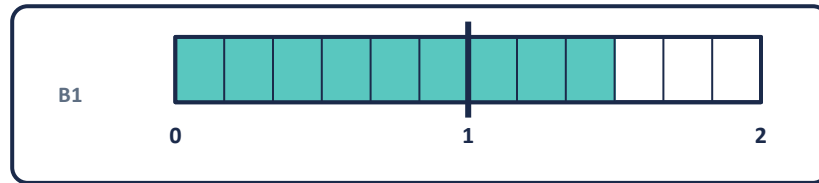
$$\frac{8}{8}$$

$$\frac{11}{8}$$

$$\frac{6}{8}$$

Set B — unit-fraction bar cards

Each bar shows the fraction as iterated unit fractions on a 0–2 line (the tall tick marks 1).



Answer key — Set A

Each bar shows a fraction as a count of unit fractions. Match, then compare it to 1.

A1 $\frac{3}{4}$ 3 units of one-fourth
less than 1

A2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 1 unit of one-half
less than 1

A3 $\frac{2}{3}$ 2 units of one-third
less than 1

A4 $\frac{5}{4}$ 5 units of one-fourth
greater than 1

A5 $\frac{1}{4}$ 1 unit of one-fourth
less than 1

A6 $\frac{4}{3}$ 4 units of one-third
greater than 1

A7 $\frac{2}{2}$ 2 units of one-half
equal to 1

A8 $\frac{3}{2}$ 3 units of one-half
greater than 1

A9 $\frac{1}{3}$ 1 unit of one-third
less than 1

A10 $\frac{4}{4}$ 4 units of one-fourth
equal to 1

Answer key — Set B

Fifths, sixths, and eighths — watch how each bar sits against the tall tick at 1.

B1 $\frac{9}{6}$ 9 units of one-sixth
greater than 1

B6 $\frac{6}{6}$ 6 units of one-sixth
equal to 1

B2 $\frac{3}{8}$ 3 units of one-eighth
less than 1

B7 $\frac{6}{8}$ 6 units of one-eighth
less than 1

B3 $\frac{5}{5}$ 5 units of one-fifth
equal to 1

B8 $\frac{7}{5}$ 7 units of one-fifth
greater than 1

B4 $\frac{11}{8}$ 11 units of one-eighth
greater than 1

B9 $\frac{8}{8}$ 8 units of one-eighth
equal to 1

B5 $\frac{2}{5}$ 2 units of one-fifth
less than 1

B10 $\frac{5}{6}$ 5 units of one-sixth
less than 1

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