

What is a fraction? halves, quarters and thirds

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

A fraction names equal parts of one whole. The whole is shared into parts that are all exactly the same size.

- A pizza cut into two equal pieces gives two halves; one piece is one half.
- In a quarter the bottom number 4 means the whole was cut into four equal pieces.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

FAIR SHARES OF ONE PIZZA

- 1 Begin with one whole pizza to share.
- 2 Cut the pizza into 2 pieces that match exactly in size.
- 3 Shade 1 of those pieces.
- 4 The shaded piece is called one half because the parts are equal.

DISCUSSION STARTER

REFLECT Where in real life do you share things into equal parts?

ANSWER KEY

Scaffold: visual check on the page

Q1: $\frac{1}{2}$

Q2: $\frac{1}{4}$

Q3: $\frac{3}{4}$

a) Always — Halves are always two matching equal parts of the whole.

b) Never — Cutting into 4 equal parts makes each quarter smaller than a half.

c) Always — The bottom number 3 always shows three equal parts.

d) Never — The two pieces must be exactly the same size to be halves.

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: 57

S2: 32

S3: 8

S4: 12 parts ($\frac{4}{5} = \frac{12}{15}$)

S5: $\frac{3}{11}$

Investigation: Fraction hunt around school — open-ended; scan pupils' working for valid solution paths rather than a single answer.