

Tenths – the first decimal place

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

A tenth is one of ten equal parts of a whole. Ten tenths make one whole, and we write tenths with one digit after the decimal point.

→ 3 means three tenths of a whole

→ $\frac{7}{10}$ and 0.7 both show seven tenths of a pizza

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

FOUR TENTHS OF A CHOCOLATE BAR

- 1 Take one whole bar split into **10** equal pieces
- 2 Shade **4** of those ten pieces
- 3 Say the amount as the fraction **$\frac{4}{10}$**
- 4 Write the same amount as the decimal **0.4**

DISCUSSION STARTER

REFLECT Does 0.1 feel more like a fraction or a whole-number place to you? Why?

ANSWER KEY

Scaffold: visual check on the page

Q1: 0.6

Q2: 0.1

Q3: $\frac{3}{10}$

Q4: $\frac{9}{10}$

a) Always — The first place after the decimal point always shows tenths.

b) Always — Ten equal parts join to make the full whole again.

c) Always — Both name exactly four of the ten equal parts.

d) Always — That place value is always the tenths place.

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: €1.75 (write both as cent: 130 cent vs 175 cent)

S2: €4.90 ($€4.09 = 409$ cent; $€4.90 = 490$ cent)

S3: €3.80 ($€3.80 = 380$ cent; $€3.08 = 308$ cent)

S4: 9 (tenths digit of 2.9)

S5: $6.96 = 6 + 0.9 + 0.06$

Investigation: Tenths all around us — open-ended; scan pupils' working for valid solution paths rather than a single answer.