

The link between $\times$ and $\div$ (multiplication and division)

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

Sharing a total back into equal groups undoes multiplying those groups together, so the same three numbers give both a times fact and a share fact.

→ 3 groups of 4 make 12, so 12 shared into 3 groups gives 4 back.

→ 2 rows of 5 counters make 10, so 10 shared into 2 groups gives 5.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

GAME COUNTERS TIMES AND SHARE LINK

- ① Set out 2 rows of 5 counters for a board game.
- ② Multiply the groups: $2 \times 5 = 10$ counters in all.
- ③ Share the 10 counters back into 2 equal groups to undo it.
- ④ Each group has 5: so $10 \div 2 = 5$ uses the same three numbers.

DISCUSSION STARTER

REFLECT Can a times fact help you solve a sharing problem? When does that work best?

ANSWER KEY

a) $6 \times 8 = 48$, $8 \times 6 = 48$, $48 \div 6 = 8$, $48 \div 8 = 6$

b) $3 \times 4 = 12$, $4 \times 3 = 12$, $12 \div 3 = 4$, $12 \div 4 = 3$

c) $5 \times 4 = 20$, $4 \times 5 = 20$, $20 \div 5 = 4$, $20 \div 4 = 5$

Q1: 56

Q2: 5

Q3: 63

Q4: 4

a) Always — Multiplying groups and sharing the total back always link the same three numbers.

b) Always — That is the exact link between multiplying and dividing.

c) Always — Rows and columns show the groups and the total at once.

d) Never — It works for any equal groups such as $3 \times 4 = 12$ and $12 \div 3 = 4$.