

Lesson 3: Non-unit Fractions

Standards Alignments

Addressing 3.NF.A.1

Teacher-facing Learning Goals

- Understand a fraction $\frac{a}{b}$ as the quantity formed by a parts of size $\frac{1}{b}$.

Student-facing Learning Goals

- Let's learn about non-unit fractions.

Lesson Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is for students to understand non-unit fractions.

Previously, students learned how to write unit fractions, using numbers of the form $\frac{1}{b}$. They also partitioned rectangles and used unit fractions to describe one of the parts. In this lesson, students use diagrams with multiple equal parts shaded to make sense of how non-unit fractions are made of unit fractions.

Students learn that a **unit fraction** is a fraction in which the numerator is 1 because it describes one of the equal-sized parts. They work with fractions that are equal to a whole number and fractions greater than a whole number to see that all non-unit fractions are built from unit fractions in the same way. Students also notice that if all the parts are shaded, then the non-unit fraction is equivalent to a whole number. The terms numerator and denominator are not used until the next section.

Access for:

Students with Disabilities

- Representation (Activity 2)

English Learners

- MLR8 (Activity 2)

Instructional Routines

Notice and Wonder (Warm-up)

Materials to Copy

- Fraction Match Part 1 (groups of 2): Activity 2
- Fraction Match Part 2 (groups of 4): Activity 2

Lesson Timeline

Warm-up	10 min
Activity 1	15 min
Activity 2	20 min
Lesson Synthesis	10 min
Cool-down	5 min

Teacher Reflection Question

How did students leverage their knowledge of unit fractions from previous lessons to make sense of non-unit fractions for the first time?

Cool-down (to be completed at the end of the lesson)

🕒 5 min

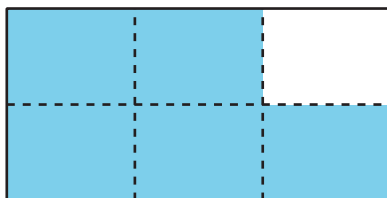
Shaded Fraction

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Student-facing Task Statement

The rectangle represents 1 whole. What fraction is shaded? Explain your reasoning.



Student Responses

$\frac{5}{6}$. Sample response: The rectangle is split into 6 equal parts and 5 of the one-sixth parts are shaded.