Unit Fractions

Explore ideas and representations

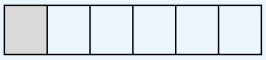
Name _____ **Date** _____ **Score** _____ / 6

QUICK REVIEW

A unit fraction has numerator 1. Divide one whole into equal parts; the denominator counts all those parts. If a strip has 4 equal pieces, one piece is $\frac{1}{4}$, and 4 such pieces rebuild the whole. Unequal pieces cannot all have the same unit-fraction name.

Worked example

Name the shaded part of this whole as a unit fraction.



1. The whole is divided into 6 equal parts.

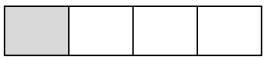
2. Exactly 1 part is shaded, so the shaded amount is $\frac{1}{6}$ of the whole.

Answer: $\frac{1}{6}$.

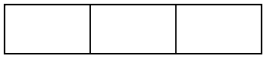
Practice Problems

Show your thinking.

1. Name the shaded part of this whole as a unit fraction.

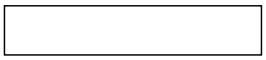


2. Shade $\frac{1}{3}$ of this whole. How many parts should be shaded?



3. One loaf is shared equally by 6 children. What fraction of the loaf does each child receive?

4. One equal piece is $\frac{1}{8}$ of a whole. How many such pieces rebuild the whole? Draw a matching strip.



5. Two same-size ribbons are cut into 4 equal pieces and 6 equal pieces. Which gives a larger single piece?

6. Ada shades 2 of 6 equal pieces and calls it $\frac{1}{6}$. How many pieces should she unshade? Explain.

Answer Key

1. $\frac{1}{4}$.
2. Shade 1 of the 3 equal parts.
3. $\frac{1}{6}$ of the loaf.
4. 8 pieces.
5. $\frac{1}{4}$ is larger than $\frac{1}{6}$.
6. Unshade 1 piece.

Step-by-Step Solutions

Follow each calculation, then check your own work.

Problem 1

1. The whole is divided into 4 equal parts.

2. Exactly 1 part is shaded, so the shaded amount is $\frac{1}{4}$ of the whole.

Problem 2

1. The denominator 3 matches the 3 equal parts in the strip.

2. The numerator is 1, so shade just 1 part; the remaining 2 parts stay unshaded.

Problem 3

1. Equal sharing cuts the single whole into 6 equal pieces.

2. Each child gets 1 piece, or $\frac{1}{6}$; all 6 pieces together make 1 loaf.

Problem 4

1. The fraction $\frac{1}{8}$ means 1 out of 8 equal pieces.

2. Collecting 8 pieces gives $\frac{8}{8} = 1$ whole.

Problem 5

1. The first ribbon has 4 pieces; the second has 6 pieces in the same length.

2. More equal pieces must be smaller, so one of 4 pieces is larger than one of 6.

Problem 6

1. Two shaded pieces represent $\frac{2}{6}$, which has numerator 2, not 1.

2. Unshade $2 - 1 = 1$ piece; the remaining one piece is $\frac{1}{6}$.

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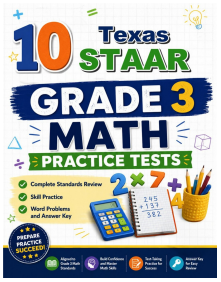

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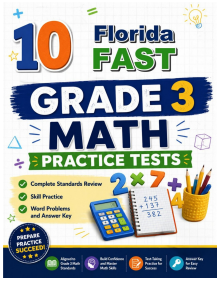

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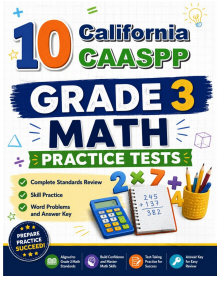

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