

# FAMILY MATH

## Partition a Whole into Equal Parts

Dear Family,

Your student is learning about fractions by partitioning objects such as paper, string, clay, and water into equal parts. This builds on their understanding of fractions as equal parts of circles and rectangles from grade 2. They see that as the number of equal parts in the whole gets larger, the size of each part gets smaller. Your student learns to name these parts by using the fractional units. They create fraction strips to help them understand how units such as fourths and eighths are related. They draw pictures, label unit fractions, and learn to write fractions in fraction form.

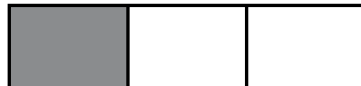
### Key Terms

eighths	sevenths
fifths	sixths
fraction form	tenths
fractional unit	unit fraction
ninths	

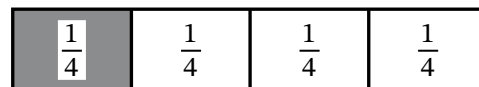
Number of Equal Parts	Fractional Unit
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2	halves
3	thirds
4	fourths or quarters
6	sixths

1 third



1 fourth 1 fourth 1 fourth 1 fourth



Fractional units give a name to the equal parts in a whole. For example, if a whole is partitioned into 3 equal parts, we call the parts thirds.

A fractional unit is the name for the parts into which the whole is partitioned. The unit fraction is 1 of those parts. For example, thirds is a fractional unit, and  $\frac{1}{3}$  is a unit fraction.

Unit fractions can be named and written in unit form or in fraction form. For example, the fraction 1 fourth can be written as  $\frac{1}{4}$  and represents 1 out of 4 equal parts.

## At-Home Activity

### Making Equal Shares

Practice making and naming fractions with your student by making equal shares. Look for foods that can be easily broken or cut apart, such as granola bars, slices of cheese, or tortillas. Ask your student to break or cut the item into equal-size parts and then name the fractional unit and the unit fraction. For example, have your student partition a tortilla to make 4 equal-size pieces.

- “How many equal parts are there?” (Four)
- “What is the fractional unit?” (Fourths)
- “What is the unit fraction?” (1 fourth)
- “Write the amount in fraction form.” ( $\frac{1}{4}$ )