Fractions treasure hunt activity

Free printable sample | Adult plan | Eight cards and worked answers

Ages 8-10: choose tasks using prior learning

Practise equal parts, fractions of quantities, equivalence and explanation. This is a standalone numbered-station activity, separate from a personalised PartyTrail game.

What you need

The question cards, scrap paper, pencils and optional counters or paper strips. Keep page 4 with the adult. You can copy the questions instead of printing.

Set up and play

1. Choose suitable cards and place them at numbered, reachable stations. Start pairs at different stations if needed.

2. Pupils write the card number, answer and method. Partners swap reading and drawing or calculating roles.

3. After an adult checks a response, move to the next numbered station. After station 8, loop to station 1 if cards remain.

4. Finish by comparing explanations. For a seated version, pass cards between pairs.

Plan the challenge

- Start with cards 1 and 5 and use objects or equal-part drawings. Cards 4 and 8 are extensions when pupils are ready.

- Allow about 5 minutes to introduce, 15-20 minutes to solve and 5-10 minutes to discuss. These are planning estimates, not measured results.

- For comparisons, use the same-sized whole. Ask: What does the denominator tell us? Can you show your method another way?

Eight fraction challenges

Player cards | Write a method on separate paper | Cut along the borders

CARD 1

Start here

There are 12 paper coins. What is 1/2 of 12?

Show your method.

CARD 2

Start here

The crew has 20 paper flags. What is 3/4 of 20?

Show your method.

CARD 3

Build on it

There are 18 paper stars. What is 2/3 of 18?

Show your method.

CARD 4

Stretch

Which is greater: 3/4 or 2/3?

Show your method.

Eight fraction challenges

Player cards | Write a method on separate paper | Cut along the borders

CARD 5

Start here

A bar has eight equal parts. Three parts are shaded. What fraction is shaded?



Show your method.

CARD 6

Build on it

Find 1/4 + 2/4.

Show your method.

CARD 7

Build on it

Complete the missing numerator: 2/5 = ?/10.

Show your method.

CARD 8

Stretch

A whole paper strip has eight equal parts. Three eighths are removed. What fraction remains?

Show your method.

Answers and methods

Adult copy | Keep this page separate from the player cards

1. Find a half: 6

Split 12 into two equal groups: 12 divided by 2 is 6.

2. Find three quarters: 15

One quarter is 20 divided by 4 = 5. Three quarters is 3 times 5 = 15.

3. Find two thirds: 12

One third is 18 divided by 3 = 6. Two thirds is 2 times 6 = 12.

4. Compare fractions: 3/4

Use equal-sized wholes. In twelfths, 3/4 = 9/12 and 2/3 = 8/12. Nine twelfths is greater.

5. Read equal parts: 3/8

The denominator 8 counts all the equal parts; the numerator 3 counts the shaded parts.

6. Add like fractions: 3/4

The parts are the same size. One quarter plus two quarters is three quarters; the denominator stays 4.

7. Make an equivalent fraction: 4

Multiply both numerator and denominator by 2: 2/5 = 4/10. The missing numerator is 4.

8. Find what remains: 5/8

One whole is 8/8. Subtract 3/8 from 8/8 to get 5/8.