

FRACTIONS

A fraction is a part of an entire object.

The top number of a fraction is called the **numerator**. It shows how many pieces of a whole we are talking about. In the fraction $\frac{3}{8}$, we are talking about three pieces.

The bottom number is called the **denominator**. It shows how many pieces an object was divided into, or how many TOTAL pieces we have. The fraction $\frac{3}{8}$ tells us that the whole object was divided into 8 pieces.

If the denominators of two fractions are the same, the fraction with the largest numerator is the larger fraction. $\frac{5}{8}$ is larger than $\frac{3}{8}$ because when you look at the numerator, you know that five pieces are more than three pieces.

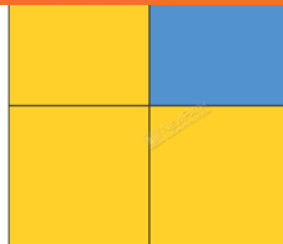
The first t

The square

$\frac{1}{4}$ of the square is blue.

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of the



The fraction $\frac{1}{4}$ shows: number of blue parts
number of parts in all

We can also say that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the square is yellow, which means that 3 of the 4 parts are yellow.

The fraction $\frac{3}{4}$ shows: number of yellow parts
number of parts in all

We know that $\frac{3}{4}$ is a larger fraction than $\frac{1}{4}$.

The second fraction we will look at is $\frac{1}{3}$.

The circle below has 3 equal parts.

$\frac{1}{3}$ of the circle is red, which means that 1 of the 3 parts is red.



The fraction $\frac{1}{3}$ shows: $\frac{\text{number of red parts}}{\text{number of parts in all}}$

We can also
the 3 parts



that 2 of

The fraction

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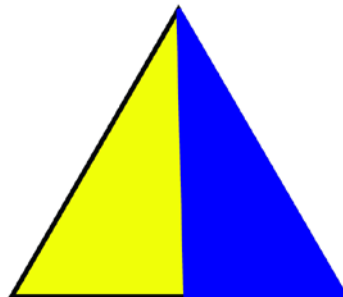
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We know t

The third fraction we will look at is $\frac{1}{2}$.

The triangle below has 2 equal parts.

$\frac{1}{2}$ of the triangle is yellow, which means that 1 of the 2 parts is yellow.



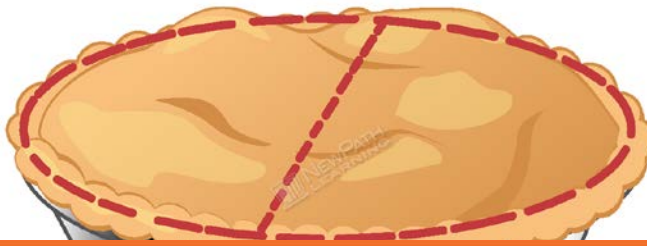
The fraction $\frac{1}{2}$ shows: $\frac{\text{number of yellow parts}}{\text{number of parts in all}}$

Equivalent Fractions

Equivalent fractions are fractions that name the same amount or show the same part of an object.

Here is an example.

If a pie is cut into two pieces, each piece is also one-half of the pie.

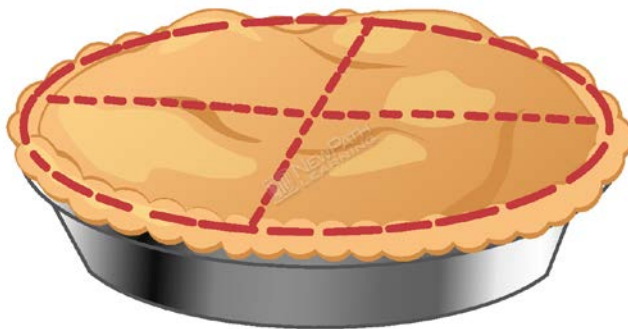


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If a pie is cut into two equal pieces, each piece is one-half of the pie. This means that

amount of pie is shown. This



Let's try another example.

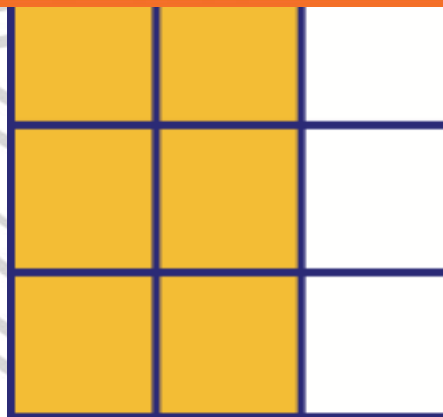
Look at the square below. It is divided into 3 equal parts. You can see that $\frac{2}{3}$ of the square is yellow which means 2 parts of the square are yellow.



Let's divide
square is y
Notice that

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the
yellow.



That tells us that $\frac{2}{3}$ is equivalent to $\frac{6}{9}$.