

Repeated Subtraction is Division

Cross-Curricular Focus: Mathematics



Some students are very nervous about learning division. They don't know that they can already **divide**. When you take away the same amount over and over again, which is called repeated subtraction, you are really dividing something to share it equally. Think about a chocolate cream pie.

If there are eight people having dinner at your house, and you cut the pie into eight equal pieces, you are ready to share it fairly. You scoop out one piece of pie at a time so you can serve it. Scooping it out is taking it away from the whole pie. There are eight pieces of pie, and each person gets one piece. Eight pieces of pie divided by eight people means that each person gets one piece.

If this confuses you, you can **subtract** instead. Start with the eight pieces of pie, and subtract one piece for the first person. Now there are seven pieces. **Repeat** again. Keep taking away one piece for each different person until the pie and the people are all matched up. If someone does not want pie, you will have a **remainder**, or something left over.

Name: _____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) What other kind of math is like division? _____

2) What does it mean to share something fairly? _____

3) Why is it important to have pieces that are all the same size? _____

4) What is a remainder? _____

5) If two people share four brownies equally, how many brownies will each of them get? _____

