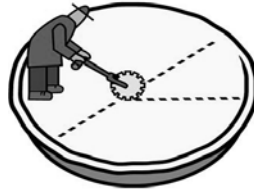


Fractions as Parts of a Whole

Cross-Curricular Focus: Mathematics



When you cut a **whole** thing into equal **parts** so that everyone can have a **fair share**, each of those parts is called a **fraction**. Fractions have special names that tell us how many pieces of that size would be needed to make the entire whole. The man in the drawing above looks like he is cutting up a pie for a giant! He is being careful to make equal parts. When he finishes cutting, he will have eight slices that are all the same size. Each slice is called one *eighth* because a single slice is one out of the eight pieces needed to make the whole pie.

Because none of the pieces are gone yet, no matter how many pieces the pie is cut into, it is still a whole. The more pieces that are cut, the smaller the pieces have to be. If the pie is cut into only three pieces, the pieces will be pretty big. Each of the pieces will be called one third. If the pie is cut into five pieces, the pieces have to be a little smaller so you can get two more slices out of the pie. Each piece is called one fifth. No matter how many pieces are cut, if you have them all, you have one whole.

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 is a fraction? _____

2) How does a fraction get its special name? _____

3) What do you have if you have all the pieces that the whole was cut into?

4) What happens to the size of the pieces when you have to cut more pieces? _____

5) If the whole is cut into four pieces, what is the special name for each of the pieces? _____