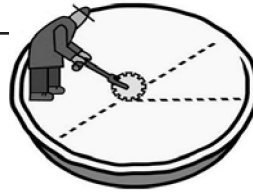


Fractions as Parts of a Whole

Cross-Curricular Focus: Mathematics



You can cut a **whole** thing into equal **parts**. This lets everyone have a fair share. Each of the parts is called a **fraction**. Fractions have special names. The names tell us how many pieces of that size would be needed to make a whole.

The man in the drawing above is cutting a pie. It looks like it is for a giant! He is being careful to make equal parts. When he is done, he will have eight slices that are all the same size. Each slice is called *one-eighth*. A single slice is one of the eight pieces needed to make the whole pie.

Because none of the pieces are gone yet, it is still a whole. No matter how many pieces the pie is cut into, if you have all the pieces, 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. You have to get two more slices out of the pie. Each piece is called one-fifth. Other names are one-fourth for four parts, one-half for two parts and one-sixth for six parts.

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?

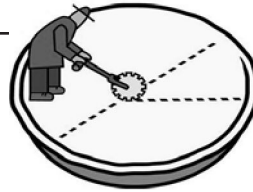
3) What do you have if you have all the pieces that the whole was cut into?

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?

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Name: **Key**

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?

part of a whole

2) How does a fraction get its special name?

from the number of pieces of that size that are needed to make a whole

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

a whole

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

They get smaller.

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

fourths