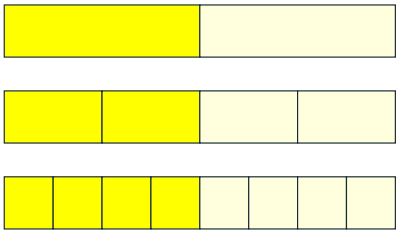
M CALCULATED
MATHEMATICS

HAMSTER LESSON
#0000003

Different pieces. Same amount.

Different fractions can name the same amount.



1/2

2/4

4/8

Equal wholes. Equal amounts.

TRY IT TODAY

Fold equal strips in halves, fourths and eighths.

1. ❓ How can one-half, two-fourths, and four-eighths all be equal?
2. 🙋 They are equivalent fractions: different ways to describe the same amount when we start with the same-sized whole.
3. ⏳ Long before calculators, people used fractions to share food, measure land, and solve practical problems. The ancient Egyptian Rhind Mathematical Papyrus includes problems involving fractions.
4. 💡 Divide a rectangle into two equal pieces and shade one. Divide an identical rectangle into four equal pieces and shade two. Each picture shows half of the whole.
5. 🔍 Multiplying a fraction's numerator and denominator by the same positive whole number preserves its value: 1/2 = 2/4 = 4/8. More, smaller pieces can represent the same amount.
6. 🌎 Equivalent fractions help us compare quantities, adjust recipes, and measure accurately. Always check the whole: half of a small pizza is not the same amount of food as half of a large pizza!
7. 🎯 Cut three equal paper strips. Fold them into halves, fourths, and eighths. Shade half of each and label the fractions. Line them up to check the shaded lengths. Explain why the amounts match. Can you also show 3/6?

References · British Museum: Rhind Papyrus
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