Answers and talk notes

Division Expressions with Fractions and Whole Numbers

What your student is learning

Tonight we model and write division expressions both ways: a whole number divided by a fraction, and a fraction divided by a whole number.

Answers

Ask your student to explain before you look.

1. **B.** 6. 3 ÷ 1/2 = 6, because each whole has 2 halves and 3 × 2 = 6.
2. **A.** 8. 2 ÷ 1/4 = 8. Each foot holds 4 pieces, and 2 × 4 = 8.
3. **C.** 1/8. 1/2 ÷ 4 = 1/8. Cutting a half into 4 equal parts makes eighths of the whole.
4. **D.** 4 ÷ 1/3. 4 ÷ 1/3 asks how many 1/3-cup scoops fit in 4 cups. The total goes first and the scoop size is the divisor.
5. **B.** 15. 5 ÷ 1/3 = 15. Each loaf makes 3 slices, and 5 × 3 = 15.

Talk about it

How many 1/4-foot pieces fit in just one foot?

Home mission

Use a ruler or a strip of paper 1 foot long. Mark every 3 inches. Ask your student: how many pieces fit in 1 foot? How many would fit in a 3-foot strip? Guess out loud, then check.

When they are stuck, ask

- How many small pieces fit into just one whole? Let's start there.
- We have more than one whole. How many wholes are there?
- Will the answer be more or less than what we started with? Why?

Try not to say

- Dividing always makes the answer smaller.
- 3 ÷ 1/4 is the same as 1/4 of 3.
- Just divide 3 by 4 to get the answer.