## Topic: Developing Effective Fractions Instruction for K-8

Practice: Initial Fraction Concepts

This fourth-grade lesson plan from Tollgate Elementary School of Expeditionary Learning focuses on finding fractional parts, both of rectangular area and a set of objects, and comparing fractional parts of different-sized wholes. As part of this lesson, the teacher leads a "Number Talk" class discussion, engaging students in thinking about the number relationships they will be using in the lesson, and has them complete worksheets that apply the concepts discussed. The teacher has also developed questions that can be used to support struggling students and extend student thinking throughout the lesson.

## Math Whole Group-Lesson Plan

Objective / Big Idea: Fractional parts are equal shares or equal-sized portions of a whole or unit.
Lesson: Same Parts, Different Wholes
Materials: crackers of different sizes, recording sheet of $5 \times 12$ rectangles and $4 \times 6$ rectangles, anchor chart of basic fraction parts

What should students know and be able to do by the end of the lesson?
LT: I can find fraction parts and compare the fraction parts.
Number Talk: Display 24 oranges in a $4 \times 6$ array (crate). Pose the problem of giving $1 / 3$ of 24 oranges away. Continue with giving away $2 / 3$ of 24 oranges away. What if you wanted to give away $1 / 5$ of 24 oranges?


|  | What will students do? | Misconceptions: (What to watch out for) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | - Find different size fractions on the <br> $4 \times 6$ rectangle and $5 \times 12$ rectangle <br> to compare fraction parts | - Students dividing the rectangle <br> incorrectly (ex: to show $1 / 3$ of a $6 \times 4$ <br> rectangle, they shade in 3 squares to <br> show there are 8 parts altogether) <br> Explore <br> - Find equivalent fractions |
|  | Students are not counting equal groups <br> to divide the rectangle |  |

## Possible questions to ask struggling students:

- How do you know that the part you shaded in is $\qquad$ (ex $1 / 5$ ) of the area of the rectangle? Can you show me __ (ex: 2/5) of the area? How many square units is that? Do you see a relationship?
- Let's pretend each square is a piece of candy. We want to split them equally among _ people. Would it be fair if each person got this much that you shaded?


## Strategies that could be used:

- Thinking of other fractions that are equivalent of the fraction they are looking for
- Dividing the whole by the denominator and then shading in the number of parts in the numerator


## Possible questions to extend student thinking:

- Can you show any of these fractions on the $5 \times 12$ rectangle: $1 / 10,1 / 15$, $1 / 30$ ?
- Can you show any of these fractions on the $5 \times 12$ rectangle: $7 / 10,5 / 15$, 20/30?
- For an extra challenge, can you find $1 / 8$ or $5 / 8$ of the $5 \times 12$ rectangle?

| Summary | How will I summarize? <br> - What strategies can be used to find <br> fractional parts? | Sharing: |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | What is the same and what is <br> different about finding $1 / 2$ or a $1 / 4$ <br> different of size rectangles? |  |

Name $\qquad$

## Same Parts, Different Wholes

LT: I can find fraction parts and compare fraction parts.
Represent the fractional parts listed below for the $4 \times 6$ rectangle and the $5 \times 12$ rectangle. What strategies can be used to find fractional parts?


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$\frac{1}{12}$


Name $\qquad$

## Same Parts, Different Wholes

Represent the fractional parts listed below for the $4 \times 6$ rectangle and the $5 \times 12$ rectangle. What strategies can be used to find fractional parts?


What strategies can be used to find fractional parts?

What do you notice about the size of a fractional part when comparing two different sized rectangles?

Name $\qquad$
Same Parts, Different Wholes
Represent the fractional parts listed below for the $5 \times 12$ rectangle.


Are there equivalent fractions here? Which are equivalent fractions, and why?

