

Lesson 8 – Unit fractions

<https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/year-2/>

If you haven't done unit fractions in a while – don't panic! It only means that the fraction has a 1 at the top (i.e. the numerator is 1). This is really easy for the children to see when shading parts of shapes and when writing the fraction, e.g. $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{10}$, etc.

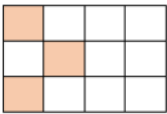
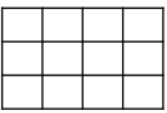
Potential misconception: some children will find it harder to spot a unit fraction when looking at fractions of numbers. For example, a group of 6 apples, split into three equal groups where each group has 2 apples. The apples have been split into thirds and $\frac{1}{3}$ has been circled so it is a unit fraction. However, some children will see 2 apples in each group and mistakenly assume it is *not* a unit fraction (because it is not 1 apple). If this is something your child is struggling with, work practically or pictorially (whichever your child responds to best) to illustrate the number of equal groups and relate it to the fraction as it's written down.

Hope that makes sense! The video takes the children through in logical steps and they can watch it as many times as they need to but drop me a line if they're still struggling.

If you're not able to print the worksheets or would prefer to work practically, try the following ideas:

- Folding and cutting shapes or colouring unit fractions on drawn shapes
- Using practical objects to group. Draw a square or rectangle split into 2, 3 or 4 to help children find what 1 part of the whole group is.

Extension activity:

<p>True or False?</p> <p>This shows $\frac{1}{4}$</p>  <p>Can you shade the same shape so that it shows $\frac{1}{3}$?</p> 	<p>True.</p> <p>There are 12 squares altogether and 3 are shaded. One quarter of 12 is 3</p> <p>Any 4 squares shaded.</p>	<p>I am thinking of a number.</p> <p>?</p> <p>One third of my number is 12</p> <p>Which will be greater, one half of my number or one quarter of my number?</p> <p>Use cubes or a bar model to prove your answer.</p>	<p>The whole number is 36</p> <p>One half is 18</p> <p>One quarter is 9</p> <p>One half of the number will be greater.</p>
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