

FRACTIONS

Folded Construction Paper

MATERIALS: yellow, red, blue, green construction paper
markers, scissors

DIRECTIONS:

- Hold up the yellow sheet in landscape position. Tell students that this is the whole. Tell student to write a large “1” on this sheet. Model.
- Hold up the red paper in landscape position. Model folding the paper in half. Leaving the paper folded, hold it against the yellow sheet. Ask students how many reds they would need to cover the yellow sheet. Discuss the fact that needing 2 reds to cover the yellow means that each part of the red is $\frac{1}{2}$ of the yellow sheet. Ask students to mark $\frac{1}{2}$ on each of the red sections. (Do not cut them yet.)
- Hold up the blue sheet in landscape position. Model folding the paper twice to create fourths. Again, leaving the paper folded, ask students how many blues they would need to cover the yellow sheet. Discuss the fact that needing 4 blues to cover the yellow sheet means that each part of the blue is $\frac{1}{4}$ of the yellow sheet. Ask students to mark $\frac{1}{4}$ on each of the blue sections. (Do not cut them yet.)
- Hold up the green sheet in landscape position. Model folding the paper three times to create eighths. Again, leaving the paper folded, ask students how many greens they would need to cover the yellow sheet. Discuss the fact that needing 8 greens to cover the yellow sheet means that each part of the green is $\frac{1}{8}$ of the yellow sheet. Ask students to mark $\frac{1}{8}$ on each of the blue sections.
- Ask students to carefully cut apart their fractions. They might also put their initials on the backs of their fractions. Provide a baggie or a paper clip for students to keep fractions together.
- As students finish cutting their fractions, they should see how many different ways they can find to make 1 using their fraction parts. They can record these different ways using the fraction model: area (rectangles) and color in the sections.
- Ask students to find different ways to make $\frac{1}{2}$ using their fraction parts.
- Play Race to One using fraction dice ($\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{1}{8}$): students place the corresponding piece on yellow wholes. First student to fully cover the mat (make one) wins the game.