

Introduction to Fractions

Common Core Standard:

3.NF.A.1: Understand and recognize fractions as parts of a whole.

Objective:

Students will create a "Fraction Pizza" project to demonstrate their understanding of fractions by dividing a paper pizza into equal parts and labeling each part with the correct fraction.

Materials:

- Large paper circles (pizza templates)
 - Colored pencils, markers, or crayons
 - Scissors (safety scissors for younger students)
 - Glue sticks (optional, for assembling pieces)
 - Ruler (optional, for precision)
 - Blank fraction labels
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Safety Precautions:

Ensure that scissors are used safely and responsibly. Provide blunt-tip scissors for younger students and supervise cutting activities closely. Remind students to handle materials carefully to avoid accidents.

Procedures:

- 1. Introduction:**
 - Discuss how a pizza can be shared equally among friends and how each slice represents a fraction of the whole pizza.
 - Explain the parts of a fraction (numerator and denominator) and how they describe the pizza slices.
 - 2. Creating the Fraction Pizza:**
 - Hand out a paper circle to each student, representing the pizza.
 - Instruct students to divide their pizza into equal parts: halves, thirds, fourths, or sixths.
 - Have students use colored pencils or crayons to color each slice differently.
 - Label each slice with the correct fraction (e.g., $1/4$ for a quarter slice).
 - 3. Decorating the Pizza:**
 - Students can draw toppings (e.g., pepperoni, mushrooms) to make their pizza unique, ensuring the decorations do not change the size of the slices.
 - 4. Fraction Challenges:**
 - Ask students to show different combinations of slices to make a whole (e.g., "How many $1/4$ slices make one whole pizza?").
 - Encourage them to combine fractions visually to represent larger portions (e.g., $1/2 + 1/4$).
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Note: Clean-up

Ensure students clean their work areas, return unused materials, and properly dispose of scraps. Remind them to handle scissors and other tools responsibly while cleaning up.