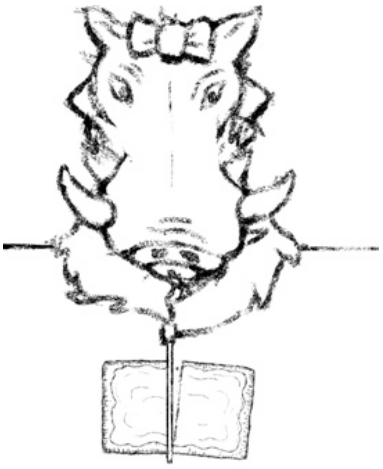
Pastry Party!

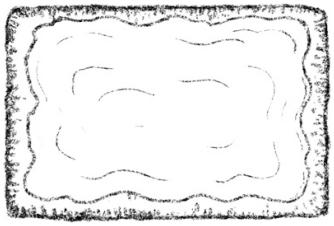
(Grades 2, 3, 4)



Objectives

- Exploring Equal Parts: halves, fourths, eighths, sixteenths
- Understanding & Writing Basic Fractions: 1/2, 1/4, 1/8, 1/16
- Ordering Unit Fractions: least to greatest, greatest to least
- Comparing Unit Fractions: >, <, =
- Comparing Fractions & Whole Numbers: >, <, =

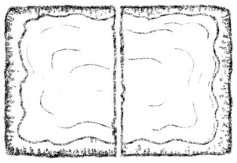
Materials

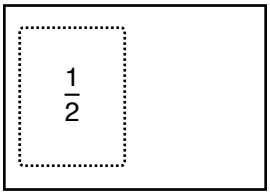


(For each student or group)
- One toaster pastry
- One plastic knife
- One sheet of white paper
- One pencil or crayon
- Scissors

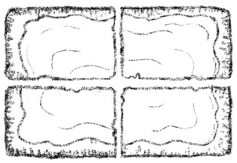
Part 1: Exploring Equal Parts / Understanding & Writing Basic Fractions

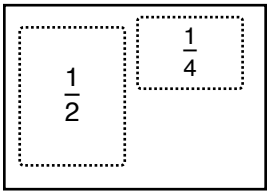
- First, students cut the toaster pastry into two equal pieces, making halves.
- They then trace one of the halves on white paper and write 1/2 inside.



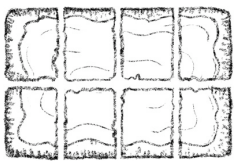


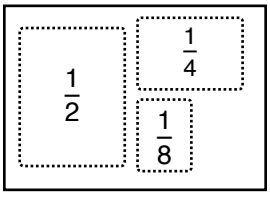
- Students cut each piece in half again, making fourths.
- They then trace one of the fourths on white paper and write 1/4 inside.



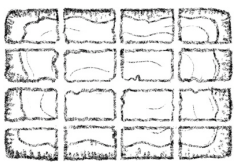


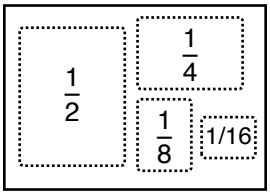
- Students cut each piece in half again, making eighths.
- They then trace one of the eighths on white paper and write 1/8 inside.





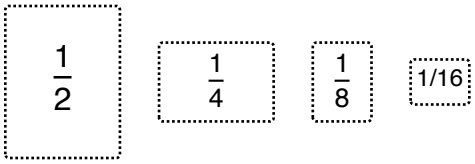
- Students cut each piece in half again, making sixteenths.
- They then trace one of the sixteenths on white paper and write 1/16 inside.





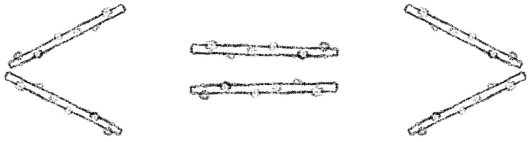
Part 2: Ordering Unit Fractions

- Students use scissors to cut out each fraction they traced.
- They shuffle their paper fractions and place them in order from least to greatest: 1/16, 1/8, 1/4, 1/2
- They shuffle their paper fractions again and place in them in order from greatest to least: 1/2, 1/4, 1/8, 1/16
- Discuss how pieces actually get smaller as the denominator gets larger.

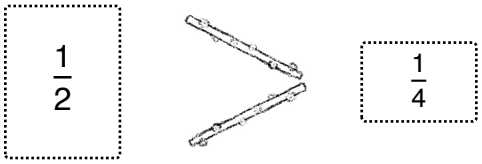


Part 3: Comparing Unit Fractions

- Using pretzel sticks, students form three separate symbols:
  (Alternately, students can draw these on pieces of paper and cut them out)



- Students then use their paper fractions to compare. They place two paper fractions side by side and decide which symbol goes in between.
- Students keep shuffling and comparing different fraction combinations.
- Ask students if it's ever possible to use the equals sign. What if they team up with another group?



Part 4: Comparing Fractions & Whole Numbers

- Students use white paper to draw the shapes of several more whole toaster pastries. (Shapes don't need to be exact, as long as they're close) Have them cut out these shapes
- Students compare their whole toaster pastries with their paper fractions using the >, <, = symbols as in the previous activity. (ex. 2 > 1/8)

Part 5: Eat and Enjoy!