

Start Here: Equal Groups and Equal Shares

Fit and First Steps

Help learners name equal-group roles, distinguish times as much from more than, and explain a fractional equal share using a fixed measured unit. Intended for selected Grades 5–6 learners; choose by their responses and prerequisites, including older learners who need these meanings.

Check access and number meaning

Learners need to count supplied whole-number amounts and access short directions. Use neutral read-aloud, pointing and an appropriate spoken, typed or written explanation. If basic counting or amount meaning is not yet visible, select earlier local teaching before interpreting this sequence.

Choose the teaching stage

- Use Starting Point before these models. Check group roles, comparison baseline and fractional unit separately.
- Teach Lessons 1–2 when group roles or copies versus difference need explanation.
- Teach Lesson 3 when equal-sharing division and the measured whole need explanation.
- Give the separate Check after teaching, choose focused practice, then use Follow-Up after another learning opportunity.

Plan three short lessons of about 20–30 minutes, plus selected practice and checks. These are planning estimates, not established classroom timings. Materials are paper, pencil, supplied diagrams and optional counters; no equipment measurement is needed.

Start Here: Equal Groups and Equal Shares

Printing and Continuing

Choose only the needed student selection

- Starting Point: 1 page. Lessons and Practice: 6 pages; each model is followed by its practice page.
- Check and Follow-Up: 2 pages each. Keep their situations out of prior models and practice.
- Continue, Clarify and Extend: 1 page each. Rebuild the Idea: 2 pages; choose the group/comparison or equal-share page.
- Later Revisit and Apply in a New Setting: 1 page each; save until their intended later use.
- Optional family conversation: 1 page using familiar lesson amounts.

Teacher files and printing

Keep this guide, complete teacher answers and the planning record with the teacher. Print PDFs at actual size and check your printer's first page. Editable Word and HTML text are supplied; diagrams are included in the classroom collection.

Move into ratios with additional teaching

When one-quantity group roles and comparison copies are explained, use Equivalent Ratios: Scale Both Quantities and its own starting task to teach two quantity labels and ratio order. When fractional shares are explained and the ratio prerequisites are ready, use Find and Interpret "Per One" to teach rate meaning and direction. Compare Unit Rates on the Same Basis follows that per-one teaching. This sequence does not establish those different skills.

Source and use

All mathematical situations and diagrams are original constructed teaching materials. Length and volume amounts may be partitioned as stated; no actual experiment or classroom outcome is claimed. You may copy and adapt them for planning and classroom use under Mentor Teaching's Terms of Use. All files are free.