DOINGWHATWORKS

Multiply or Divide Problems

RMC Denver Professional Development, Colorado

Topic: Developing Effective Fractions Instruction for K-8

Practice: Operations With Fractions

When conducting professional development sessions on fraction operations, coaches from RMC Denver provide teachers with these five word problems and ask them to decide whether multiplication or division would be used to solve the problem. The problem structures vary, requiring close attention to determine the proper procedure.

Multiply or Divide

Which of the following problems are solved by:
1 ¾ × ½   OR   1 ¾ ÷ ½ ?

1. How many cups of sugar do you need to make a half batch of cookies if a full batch takes 1 ¾ cups of sugar?

2. How many posters can you paint with 1 ¾ cans of paint if one poster takes ½ can of paint?

3. How many pounds of birdseed do you need to fill a bird feeder if 1 ¾ pounds of birdseed fills the bird feeder ½ full?

4. What is the area, in square yards, of a rectangular garden that is 1 ¾ yards long by ½ yard wide?

5. How many servings of lemonade can you make if you have 1 ¾ cups of lemonade and a serving is ½ cup?