



SAMPLE MATERIAL

## Fraction Strip Game: Cover Up

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**Topic:** Developing Effective Fractions Instruction for K-8

**Practice:** Fractions as Numbers

This game provides third-grade students an opportunity to apply their understanding of common unit fractions and equivalencies. Students create the game board and pieces required to play the game in which they take turns trying to cover or uncover their entire game board by selecting the fraction strip piece that matches the quantity they rolled on a specially labeled “fraction cube” die. The instructions included here are for both the Cover Up and Uncover variations of the game.

## Cover Up

You need:

- Your fraction kit
- A fraction cube with faces labeled:  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{8}$ ,  $\frac{1}{8}$
- A partner

Rules:

1. Take turns rolling the fraction cube.
2. On your turn, the fraction that comes up on the cube tells what size piece you can place on the whole strip. You cannot place a piece that does not “fit” on the whole strip.
3. Check with your partner to be sure he/she agrees with what you did.
4. After finishing your turn, say “done” and pass the cube to your partner.
5. The first player to cover his/her whole strip exactly wins.

If you need only a *small* piece (such as a  $\frac{1}{8}$  piece) and you roll a larger fraction such as  $\frac{1}{2}$ , you can't play. Give the cube to your partner. To place a fraction piece, you must roll a fraction smaller than or exactly what you need to complete the cover up.

## Uncover

You need:

- Your fraction kit
- A fraction cube with faces labeled:  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{8}$ ,  $\frac{1}{8}$
- A partner

Rules:

1. Each player covers his/her whole strip with fraction pieces of their choice.
2. Take turns rolling the fraction cube.
3. On your turn, the fraction that comes up on the cube tells what size piece you can remove on the whole strip. You cannot remove a piece unless you have the right size piece for the fraction that comes up on the cube.
4. Check with your partner to be sure he/she agrees with what you did.
5. After finishing your turn, say “done” and pass the cube to your partner.
6. The first player to uncover his/her whole strip wins.

Note: You have to go out exactly. That means if you have only one piece left and roll a fraction that is not the size of that piece, you may not remove the piece.