

Adding & Subtracting Fractions

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators using a real measuring activity.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- measuring cups ($\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 cup if available)
- dry rice, flour, or water for measuring
- large bowl
- notebook paper
- pen or pencil

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Using measuring cups, measure $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of rice (or flour/water) into a bowl, then measure and add $\frac{1}{3}$ cup more. Note the combined amount by measuring it back out in fractional cups if possible.
2. Before checking with the cups, calculate $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3}$ on paper by finding a common denominator, then compare your calculated answer to what you measured.
3. Empty and repeat with a subtraction scenario: measure $\frac{3}{4}$ cup, then physically remove (scoop out) $\frac{1}{4}$ cup, and calculate $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{4}$ on paper to check your physical result.
4. Do one more paper-only problem: $\frac{5}{6} - \frac{1}{2}$, showing the common denominator step, and verify your answer makes sense compared to your earlier physical trials.

QUESTIONS

1. What is $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3}$? Show the common denominator you used.

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2. Did your physical measurement of $\frac{1}{2}$ cup + $\frac{1}{3}$ cup match your calculated answer of $\frac{5}{6}$? Explain any difference.

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3. What is $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{4}$, and what did you observe when you physically removed $\frac{1}{4}$ cup?
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4. Solve $\frac{5}{6} - \frac{1}{2}$ and show your work.
