

Find a Third

Adult Guidance with Question Prompts



Before completing this activity, children will already know that a third is one of three equal parts of a whole. Children will move on to finding a third of an amount or quantity.

Children would benefit from opportunities to use concrete resources such as cubes or counters to find a third by sharing amounts into three equal groups.

What is a third?

How many equal groups do we need to split the whole into?

How many bananas can you see?

How many equal groups will you need to split them into?

What could you use to help you?

How many are in each group?

Can you circle that many bananas?

How will you find one third of each number?

Can you use cubes or counters to represent the numbers?

Can you split each number into three equal groups?

How many are in one group?

Look at the bar model.

If 18 is the whole number, how will we find a third?

If six is one third, what will the missing number be?

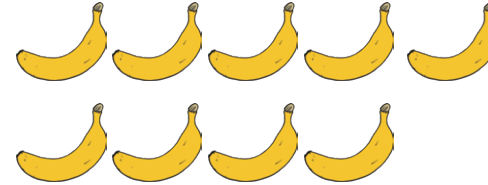
How do you know?

How could you check your answer?

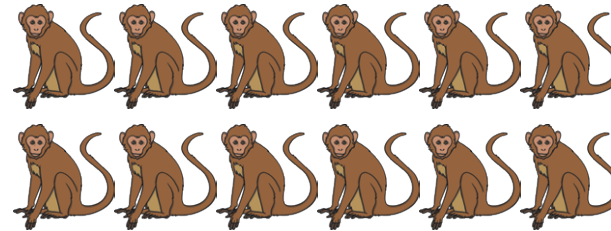
Find a Third



Circle $\frac{1}{3}$ of the bananas.



Circle $\frac{1}{3}$ of the monkeys.

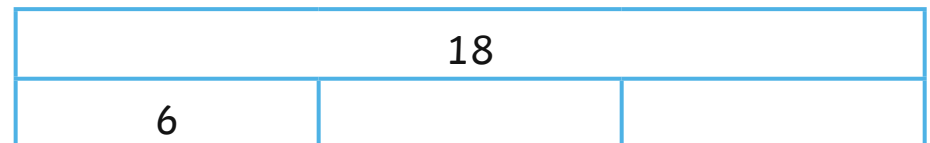


Find $\frac{1}{3}$ of these numbers.

$$\frac{1}{3} \text{ of } 6 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad \frac{1}{3} \text{ of } 12 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$\frac{1}{3} \text{ of } 9 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad \frac{1}{3} \text{ of } 15 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Complete the bar model with the missing numbers.



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Children are presented with a third of a quantity. They use what they know about thirds to find the whole number. You may wish to provide cubes or counters so that children can explore making groups to find the whole number. A bar model may also be a useful way of representing this activity with the children.

How many monkeys are there?

What fraction of the whole number will each monkey get?

What fraction of the fruit is shown?

How could you find the whole number if you know one third?

Could you use cubes to help you?

Could you use a bar model to help?

How many groups of five would there have been at the start? Show me.

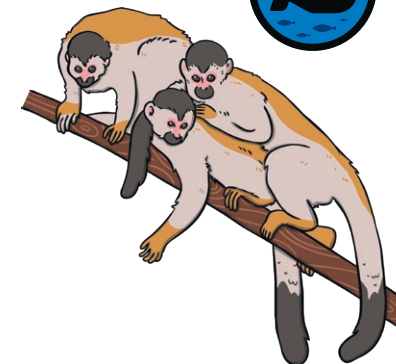
How many pieces of fruit are there in total if we add the three groups of five?

Can you write a calculation to show this?

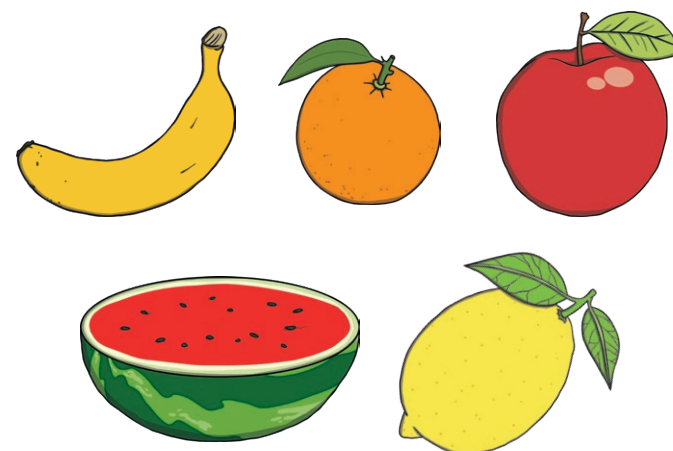
Find a Third



The zookeeper shares the fruit equally between Borris, Morris and Norris.



Here is $\frac{1}{3}$ of the fruit.



How many pieces of fruit did the zookeeper start with?

Prove it!

Can you write a calculation to show this?

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For this activity, children apply their knowledge of thirds to explore different ways of representing a third. They present different solutions before moving on to compare fractions of a whole. Children may benefit from using cubes first to split the numbers into thirds. Children could use the squared grids included in this pack for finding their own ways of representing $\frac{1}{3}$.

How many squares are there altogether?

How could you find a third?

How many equal parts will you need to split the shape into?

How many squares are in one third of this shape?

How could you represent this?

Could you represent this in a different way?

Do you think a half is always bigger than a third?

How could you show this?

Could you show me a half and a third of the same shape?

Could you show me a half and a third of the same number?

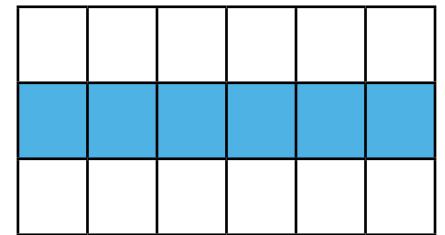
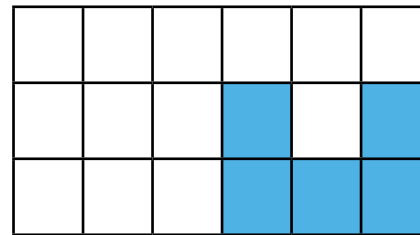
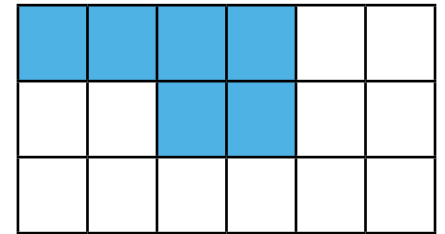
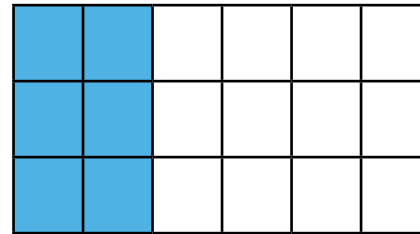
Find a Third



The zookeeper is decorating the wall of the monkey house. She has 18 tiles.

$\frac{1}{3}$ of her tiles are blue. The other tiles are white.

Circle the patterns that she could use.



Using your own grids, how many other ways can you find to represent $\frac{1}{3}$?

