Equal parts: answers and notes

What your child practised: splitting a whole into equal parts and naming one part as a unit fraction, such as one half, one third or one quarter (Year 3).

Page 1 · Warm up

$\frac{1}{2}$ · $\frac{1}{3}$ · $\frac{1}{6}$ · $\frac{1}{8}$

Page 2 · Try it together

Half: 2 equal parts, $\frac{1}{2}$. Folded twice: 4 equal parts, one quarter $\frac{1}{4}$. Letter fold: 3 equal parts, one third $\frac{1}{3}$.

Page 2 · A. Equal parts?

Tick the 1st, 3rd and 5th shapes. Cross the 2nd, 4th and 6th: their parts are different sizes.

Page 2 · B. Colour one part

Any one part: $\frac{1}{5}$ · $\frac{1}{6}$ · $\frac{1}{2}$

Page 3 · C. Shaded

$\frac{1}{4}$ · $\frac{1}{3}$ · $\frac{1}{8}$ · $\frac{1}{10}$

Page 3 · D. Match

one half $\frac{1}{2}$ · one third $\frac{1}{3}$ · one quarter $\frac{1}{4}$ · one fifth $\frac{1}{5}$

Challenge: No. The bottom number counts **all** the equal parts: 4. He coloured 1 of them, so it's $\frac{1}{4}$, one quarter. Sam counted only the parts that weren't coloured.

Watch out for

- **Counting parts that aren't equal** as a fraction. A half must be two parts the same size.
- **Using the unshaded parts** as the bottom number, so 1 of 4 becomes $\frac{1}{3}$. Count all the parts: "1 out of 4 altogether".

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Fair shares at snack time:** cut a sandwich or fruit into halves or quarters and name one part.
- **Is it fair?** Cut something into unequal parts on purpose and ask "Is that a half?"
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, More Pieces, shades more than one equal part, like three quarters.