

3rd Grade Math: Division - Making Equal Groups

What is Division?

Division is a way to **split** or **divide** things into **equal groups**. It helps us figure out how many items will be in each group or how many groups we can make.

Example 1: Dividing Toys into Equal Groups

Imagine you have **12 toy cars** and you want to divide them into **4 equal groups**. To do this, you will **share** the cars equally between the groups.

- Start by placing **1 car** in each group. Now you've used 4 cars.
- Then place **1 more car** in each group. You've used 8 cars.
- Finally, place the last **4 cars** into the groups.

Now, each group has **3 cars**. You divided **12 cars** into **4 equal groups** with **3 cars** in each group. The division sentence for this would be:

$$12 \div 4 = 3$$

This means 12 cars divided into 4 groups gives us 3 cars in each group.

What is Division Telling Us?

Division is all about **making equal groups** or **sharing equally**. The number you start with (the total) is called the **dividend**. The number of groups is called the **divisor**, and the answer you get is the **quotient**.

Example 2: Sharing Apples into Equal Groups

You have **15 apples** and want to divide them into **5 equal groups**. How many apples will be in each group?

- Start by giving **1 apple** to each group. Now, you've given away 5 apples.
- Then, give **1 more apple** to each group. You've given away 10 apples.
- Finally, give the last **1 apple** to each group.

Now, each group has **3 apples**. So, the division equation is:

$$15 \div 5 = 3$$

This means 15 apples divided into 5 equal groups gives 3 apples per group.

Using Division to Solve Problems

When dividing things into equal groups, think of it as **sharing** or **grouping**. Here's how you can practice:

- If you have **20 pencils** and want to divide them into **4 groups**, how many pencils will be in each group?

$$20 \div 4 = ?$$

- If you have **18 candies** and want to share them with **6 friends**, how many candies will each friend get?

$$18 \div 6 = ?$$

Practice Division

Use everyday objects like toys, buttons, or snacks to practice division:

- Group them into equal piles.
- Share them with friends or family members equally.
- Write division equations to describe your grouping.

Why is Division Important?

Division helps us understand **fairness** and how to split things equally. It's useful in real life when sharing items, dividing tasks, or even cooking. Learning how to divide by making equal groups will also help with **multiplication** and more advanced math in the future.

