

2nd Grade Math: How to Divide

What Is Division?

Division is the process of splitting a number into equal parts or groups. It helps us find out how many equal groups we can make or how many items will be in each group. Division is the opposite of multiplication.

Key Concepts

1. **Dividing into Equal Groups:** When you divide, you split a total number into equal parts or groups.
2. **Division Symbol ($\div$):** The symbol for division is " $\div$ " and is read as "divided by."
3. **Sharing or Grouping:** Division can be thought of as sharing equally or making equal groups.

Example: Dividing into Equal Groups

Problem: You have 12 cookies, and you want to share them equally among 3 friends. How many cookies will each friend get?

1. **Total Number of Cookies:** You start with 12 cookies.
2. **Number of Friends:** You are dividing the cookies between 3 friends.
3. **Answer:** You need to divide 12 by 3 to find out how many cookies each friend gets:

$$12 \div 3 = 4$$

Each friend gets 4 cookies.

Division as Repeated Subtraction

Division can also be thought of as **repeated subtraction**. You keep subtracting the divisor from the total until you reach zero.

Example: Divide 12 cookies among 3 friends.

1. **Subtract:**

$$12 - 3 = 9$$

$$9 - 3 = 6$$

$$6 - 3 = 3$$

$$3 - 3 = 0$$

2. You subtracted 4 times, which means each friend gets 4 cookies.

Visual Representation

You can use **pictures or objects** to help visualize division. For example, if you have 12 counters, you can divide them into 3 equal groups, and then count how many are in each group.

Division and Multiplication Connection

Division and multiplication are related. If you know that:

$$3 \times 4 = 12$$

Then you can also figure out that:

$$12 \div 3 = 4$$

This is because multiplication and division are inverse operations.

Practice Problems

1. **Problem 1:**

- There are 20 apples. You want to divide them equally among 5 friends. How many apples will each friend get? (Answer: ____)

2. **Problem 2:**

- A teacher has 18 pencils. She wants to give 6 pencils to each student. How many students will get pencils? (Answer: ____)

3. Problem 3:

- You have 24 toys, and you want to put them into 4 equal groups. How many toys will be in each group? (Answer: ____)

Conclusion

Division is an important math skill used to split things into equal parts or groups. By practicing division with objects, repeated subtraction, and connecting it to multiplication, students can understand how division works and apply it in real-world situations.