HOLLIE'S GUIDE TO "FRACTIONS: A PART OF LIFE!"

This page provides information and questions that will help your students explore the use of fractions as parts of a whole and as ratios. Can your students answer the fraction question I've written on my chalkboard? Ask them to write the answer, and you'll find out.

We use fractions to divide things and groups of things into parts.

For example, if I cut an apple into eight equal pieces, then each piece is what fraction of the whole apple?

Hand out copies of "Fractions: A Part of Life!" Ask the following questions as your students look at the page. (Anticipated responses are in parentheses.)
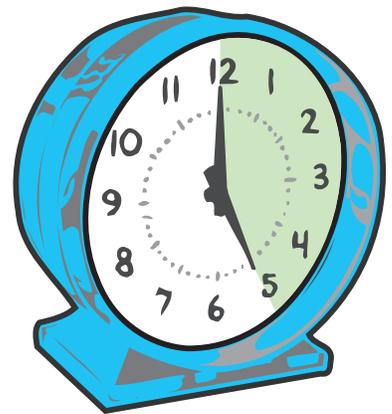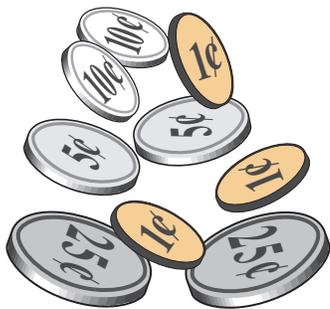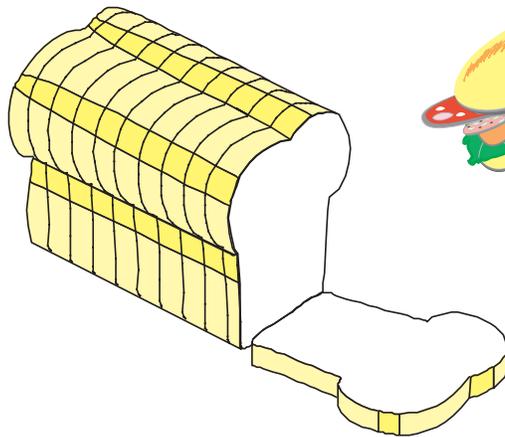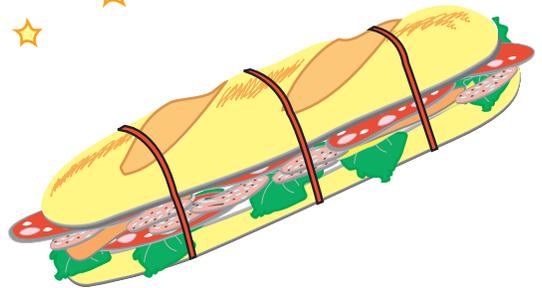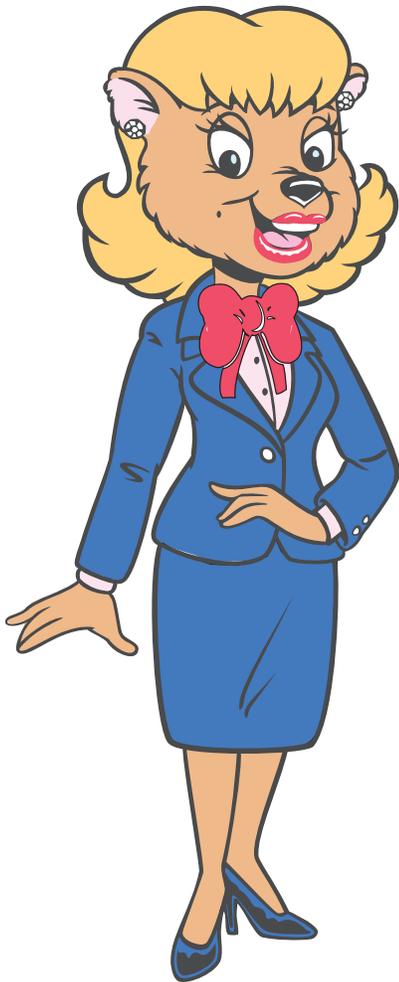
• What fractions do you see on this page? (Answers will vary.)

• What fraction of the moon is lit? (One-half)
• If one-half of the moon is lit, how much is dark? (One-half)
• When you put together two halves of something, how much do you have? (One whole)

• What fraction of the whole sandwich is each piece? (One-fourth)
• When you put together four fourths of something, how much do you have? (One whole)

• What is the time shown on the clock? (Five o'clock)
• What fraction of the clock is shaded? (Five-twelfths)

• Three slices of bread make up what fraction of the whole loaf? (Three-elevenths)

• One dollar has the same value as one hundred cents. What fraction of a dollar's value is one penny? (One-hundredth)
• How many cents is a dime worth? (Ten)
• So a dime is ten-hundredths of a dollar. A dollar is worth how many dimes? (Ten)
• That means a dime can also be called one-tenth of a dollar. Therefore, another name for ten-hundredths is one-tenth. They are equivalent fractions.
• [Explore coins of various values as fractions of a dollar as is done above with dimes.]
• The sum of the coins represents what fraction of a dollar? (Eighty-three-hundredths)

Fractions are also used as ratios to compare parts of a group or a set to the whole.
• How many students are in your classroom? (Answers will vary.)
• Girls make up what fraction of the class? (Answers will vary.)
• This fraction is a ratio that compares the number of girls in your class to the total number of students.

Fractions: A Part of Life!

Fractions play an important part in my life, and they are also a part of yours. We can find fractions in just about everything around us.

How are fractions a part of your life?