



Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
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Fractions: Building a Strong Foundation Based on Conceptual Understanding

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This curriculum unit is designed to teach fractions by developing concepts in a deep, meaningful way. The curriculum unit will focus on the "unit": unit fractions, general fractions, equivalent fractions, mixed numbers, improper fractions, and adding and subtracting fractions with like, related and unlike denominators. The strategies and activities are carefully planned to provide a framework to build on students' prior knowledge. The goal of the unit is for students to truly grasp the meaning of fractions instead of memorizing algorithms. Through hands-on techniques students are exposed to the many variations that fractions represent. The target audience for this unit is fourth grade. Parts of the unit could be used in second and third grade, and other parts of the unit could be used in fifth and sixth grade.

(Developed for Mathematics, grade 4; recommended for Mathematics, grades 3-5)

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