Multiply Fractions in Word Problems

Dear Family,

This week your child is learning about multiplying fractions in word problems.

Math Tools

- Number Line
- Multiplication Models
- Fraction Models

Your child might see a problem like this:

> *Reynaldo finds $\frac{3}{8}$ of a vegetable pizza in the refrigerator. He eats $\frac{2}{3}$ of it. How much of the original whole pizza does Reynaldo eat?*

- One way to understand this problem is to draw a picture. Your child could draw $\frac{3}{8}$ of a pizza.

  To show the part of the pizza that Reynaldo eats, your child could shade 2 of the 3 pieces to show $\frac{2}{3}$.

  The shaded parts show how much of the original whole pizza Reynaldo eats. Reynaldo eats $\frac{2}{8}$, or $\frac{1}{4}$, of the original whole pizza.

- Another way your child could solve the problem is to write a multiplication equation.

  $\frac{2}{3}$ of $\frac{3}{8}$ means $\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{3}{8}$.
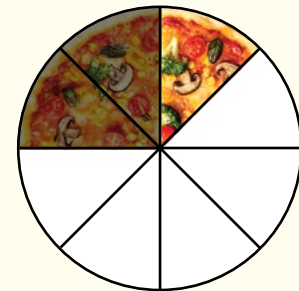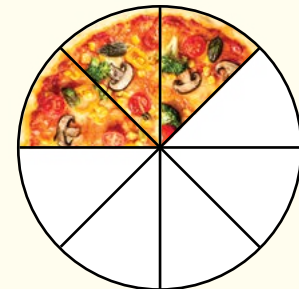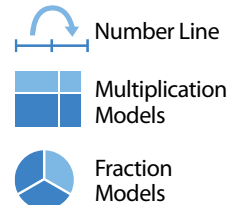
  $$\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{3}{8} = \frac{2 \times 3}{3 \times 8} = \frac{6}{24}$$

  $\frac{6}{24}$ is equivalent to $\frac{2}{8}$, or $\frac{1}{4}$.

The answer is the same using either way to solve the problem. Reynaldo eats $\frac{1}{4}$ of the original whole pizza.

Invite your child to share what they know about multiplying fractions and word problems by doing the following activity together.

MULTIPLYING FRACTIONS IN WORD PROBLEMS

Do this activity with your child to multiply fractions in word problems.

Together with your child, make up and solve real-world problems about multiplying fractions or use the problems below.

Below are examples of problems you could solve.

1. Vinh finds $\frac{5}{6}$ of a party sandwich left in the refrigerator. He takes $\frac{1}{2}$ of the $\frac{5}{6}$ of the sandwich to his neighbor. How much of the original sandwich does Vinh take to his neighbor?

2. Tomás has $\frac{3}{5}$ of a gallon of paint left in the can. He uses $\frac{2}{3}$ of it to paint a cabinet. How much of the gallon of paint does he use?

3. Leah makes some money babysitting. She saves $\frac{3}{4}$ of the money. She spends $\frac{2}{5}$ of the money she saves to buy a shirt. What fraction of the money does Leah spend on the shirt?

Answers:
1. $\frac{5}{12}$; **2.** $\frac{6}{15}$ or $\frac{2}{5}$; **3.** $\frac{6}{20}$ or $\frac{3}{10}$