

RAFT IDEAS

Topics: Fractions,
Addition

Materials List

- ✓ Fraction Stickers
- ✓ Flat, cut-able material such as a file folder, poster board, or magnet sheet
- ✓ Circle drawn on (or cut from) flat material (use rubber steel for magnet pieces)
- ✓ Cards with fractions written on them, with several cards for each fraction
- ✓ Optional: fraction die cuts, if available
- ✓ Optional: matte board or similar

This Activity can be used to teach:

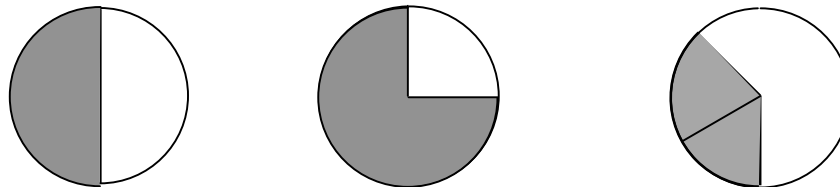
CO Math Standard 1:
Number Sense, Properties
and Operations

- Fractions
- Addition

Grades: 3, 4, and 5

Frack Jack

A Game to Teach Fraction Concepts



Games are wonderful tools for teaching and motivating students! Frack Jack is a fun activity that has students learning fractions while playing a game.

Assembly

1. Place the fraction stickers on the selected, flat material (file folder, poster board, magnet sheet) and then cut out the individual fraction pieces. If fraction die cuts are available, then die cut the selected material first before attaching the matching stickers.
2. There are several options for making the whole circle base. A 10 cm (4") diameter circle could be drawn on a section of paper, cardboard, or rubber steel (for magnet pieces). Optional - to help students position the pieces, add a raised border cut from a material that is thicker than the fraction piece material.
3. Add fractions to cards using permanent marker or stickers. Select fractions that cover desired concept(s) goals.

To Play the Game (each player needs a whole circle base)

Beginning students could first explore and manipulate the pieces, without rules, to allow them to discover some of the fractional relationships on their own.

1. The game can be played similar to blackjack, with or without a dealer.
2. Each player has an uncovered white circle base.
3. The fraction pieces are placed within easy reach.
4. Shuffle the cards and place face down. Each player is dealt, or takes, 1 card.
5. The players turn their cards face up and then take the matching fraction piece(s), if not available then they take the pieces of an equivalent fraction. The fraction is placed on the player's own circle for all to see.
6. A player goes "Bust" if an added fraction piece covers more than the full circle.
7. Each player takes turns deciding to say "Hit me" or "Stick".
8. If a player says, "Hit me", the player is dealt, or takes, one more card. The player then adds the matching fraction piece to cover the circle base.
9. If the player thinks that the next card may cover more than the circle (would cause the player to go "Bust") then the player says, "Stick".
10. Players are dealt, or take, cards, until they have all said either "Stick" or "Bust".
11. The winner of the round is the player whose combined fraction pieces come closest to covering the whole circle without the player going "Bust". An exact score of 1 (one whole) is a "Frack Jack".

The Math Content in the Activity

Playing Frack Jack can help students to:

- Anticipate the relative size of a fraction when seeing the written form.
- Understand fractional equivalents ($2/4 = 1/2$).
- Understand that $1/3$ is larger than $1/12$, etc.

Taking It Further

Allow students to take fraction equivalents at any time (e.g., $1/2$ instead of $3/6$).

Web Resources - Visit www.raft.net/more for how-to videos and more ideas!