

Vocabulary: Modeling Fractions



Vocabulary

- **Denominator** – the bottom number in a fraction.
 - The denominator represents the number of equal parts the whole has been divided into.
 - For example, in the fraction $\frac{3}{5}$, the denominator shows that the whole has been divided into 5 equal parts.
- **Difference** – the amount that one number is greater than another.
 - The difference is the answer to a subtraction problem.
 - For example, the difference between 10 and 6 is 4.
 - For example, the difference between $\frac{4}{5}$ and $\frac{3}{5}$ is $\frac{1}{5}$.
- **Equivalent** – equal in value.
 - Equivalent fractions are fractions that have different numerators and denominators but which represent the same amount.
 - For example, $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{2}{4}$ are equivalent fractions.
- **Fraction** – a number that shows the relationship between a part and a whole.
 - A fraction consists of a *denominator* (bottom number) and a *numerator* (top number).
- **Least common denominator** – the least common multiple of the denominators of a set of fractions.
 - For example, if the fractions are $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$, the least common denominator is 6 because 6 is the least common multiple of 2 and 3.
 - Least common denominator is commonly abbreviated “LCD.”
- **Numerator** – the top number in a fraction.
 - The numerator counts the number of equal parts indicated by the fraction.
 - For example, in the fraction $\frac{3}{5}$, the numerator shows that the fraction refers to 3 of the 5 equal parts that make up the whole.