Lesson 1: How Many Groups?

Standards Alignments

Addressing	3.OA.A.2, 3.OA.A.3
Building Towards	3.OA.A.3

Teacher-facing Learning Goals

- Solve "how many groups?" problems in a way that makes sense to them.

Student-facing Learning Goals

- Let's represent and solve problems.

Lesson Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is for students to solve "how many groups?" problems in a way that makes sense to them.

In a previous unit, students were introduced to multiplication. They interpreted products as the total number of objects in a given number of groups of equal size. Students represented groups of equal size using drawings, tape diagrams, and arrays.

The purpose of this lesson is to introduce problems that involve putting objects into groups of equal size, starting with "how many groups?" problems. Even though the structure of the problems suggests division, students may use their understanding of multiplication or any strategy that makes sense to them to solve the problems. If students use connecting cubes, encourage them to draw a picture to match their work. In the lesson synthesis, students have a chance to think about how they would define division. The definition and symbol for division will be introduced in subsequent lessons.

Access for:

Students with Disabilities

- Representation (Activity 1)

English Learners

- MLR8 (Activity 2)

Instructional Routines

How Many Do You See? (Warm-up)

Materials to Gather

- Connecting cubes or counters: Activity 1
- Tools for creating a visual display: Activity 1

Lesson Timeline

Warm-up	10 min
Activity 1	20 min
Activity 2	15 min
Lesson Synthesis	10 min
Cool-down	5 min

Teacher Reflection Question

In this lesson, students are introduced to division for the first time. How is their understanding of multiplication influencing and supporting how they solve division problems?

Cool-down (to be completed at the end of the lesson)

5 min

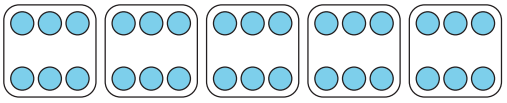
How Many Bags?

Standards Alignments

Addressing 3.OA.A.3

Student-facing Task Statement

Lin has 30 apples to share with her friends. She is putting them in bags, with 6 apples in each bag. How many bags does she need? Explain or show your reasoning.

Student Responses

She will need 5 bags. If I put the 30 apples into groups of 6 there will be 5 groups.