

Lesson 11: What's the Difference?

Standards Alignments

Addressing 5.NF.A.1

Teacher-facing Learning Goals

- Subtract fractions and mixed numbers.

Student-facing Learning Goals

- Let's subtract fractions.

Lesson Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is for students to practice subtracting fractions with unlike denominators.

This lesson complements the previous lesson except that students are looking to make the greatest or smallest differences rather than sums. Trying to make the greatest difference supports strategies like students used in the previous lesson, looking to choose a large numerator and small denominator for one fraction and a small numerator and large denominator for the other (MP7). Trying to make a small difference brings a new feature into play, namely that the difference can be 0 if the fractions are equivalent. Other than looking for equivalent fractions, students may also realize that if both fractions are small, then their difference will also be small.

Access for:

Students with Disabilities

- Representation (Activity 1)

English Learners

- MLR8 (Activity 1)

Instructional Routines

Number Talk (Warm-up)

Materials to Gather

- Paper clips: Activity 1

Lesson Timeline

Warm-up	10 min
Activity 1	15 min
Activity 2	20 min

Teacher Reflection Question

How effective were your questions in supporting students' thinking today? What did students say or do that showed they were effective?

Lesson Synthesis 10 min

Cool-down 5 min

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

 5 min

Reflect on Subtracting Fractions

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Student-facing Task Statement

What is important to remember when subtracting fractions with unlike denominators?

Student Responses

Sample response: You have to find common denominators before you can subtract.