

Equal Shares: Halves, Thirds, and Fourths

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 24

Q Quick Review

When we split a shape into **equal shares**, every part is the same size. Two equal shares are called **halves**. Three equal shares are called **thirds**. Four equal shares are called **fourths** (also called **quarters**). The more equal shares you make, the **smaller** each share becomes — a fourth is smaller than a half. Equal shares must be fair: each piece has to be the same size. We can also call all the parts together the **whole** shape.

◇ **Example:** A pizza is cut into 4 equal shares. What is each share called, and how many shares make the whole pizza?
 ⇒ The pizza is split into 4 equal pieces, and all the pieces are the same size. When a whole is cut into 4 equal shares, each share is called a fourth, or a quarter. To make the whole pizza again, we need all 4 of those shares together. So each share is a fourth, and 4 fourths make one whole pizza.

Answer: a fourth; 4 shares make the whole

PRACTICE

Name the equal shares or count the parts as asked.

- Two equal shares of a shape are called _____.

- Three equal shares of a shape are called _____.

- Four equal shares of a shape are called _____.

- How many halves make one whole? _____
- How many thirds make one whole? _____
- How many fourths make one whole? _____
- One half of a shape has how many equal parts?

- Another name for a fourth is a _____. _____
- A cake is cut into 2 equal pieces. Each piece is a _____. _____
- A sandwich is cut into 3 equal pieces. Each piece is a _____. _____
- Which is bigger, one half or one fourth of the same shape? _____
- Which is smaller, one third or one half of the same shape? _____
- Are equal shares the same size or different sizes?

- A shape split into 4 equal parts has how many fourths in all? _____
- How many thirds are left if you eat 1 third of 3 thirds? _____
- How many halves are left if you eat 1 half of 2 halves? _____
- A pie has 4 equal slices. You eat 2. How many fourths are left? _____
- If you split a square into 4 equal shares, each is one _____. _____
- The whole shape is made of how many fourths? _____
- You join 2 halves of a circle. What do you get? _____

◆ Word Problems

- Grandma baked a pie and cut it into 4 equal slices for 4 children. What is each child's slice called? _____
- Carlos and his sister share a granola bar equally. They break it into 2 equal pieces. What is each piece called, and how many pieces make the whole bar? _____
- A pizza is cut into 3 equal shares. Maria eats 1 share. How many thirds of the pizza are left? _____
- Tom and Lily each have the same size cookie. Tom cuts his into 2 equal pieces and Lily cuts hers into 4 equal pieces. Whose pieces are bigger? _____



Answer Keys

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>halves</i> | 13. <i>same size</i> |
| 2. <i>thirds</i> | 14. 4 |
| 3. <i>fourths</i> | 15. 2 |
| 4. 2 | 16. 1 |
| 5. 3 | 17. 2 |
| 6. 4 | 18. <i>fourth</i> |
| 7. 1 | 19. 4 |
| 8. <i>quarter</i> | 20. <i>onewhole</i> |
| 9. <i>half</i> | 21. a fourth (a quarter) |
| 10. <i>third</i> | 22. a half; 2 pieces make the whole |
| 11. <i>onehalf</i> | 23. 2 thirds |
| 12. <i>onethird</i> | 24. Tom's pieces |

Step-by-Step Explanations

- | | |
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| <p>1. When a shape is split into 2 equal parts, the parts are halves.</p> <p>2. When a shape is split into 3 equal parts, the parts are thirds.</p> <p>3. When a shape is split into 4 equal parts, the parts are fourths.</p> <p>4. It takes 2 equal halves put together to make one whole.</p> <p>5. It takes 3 equal thirds put together to make one whole.</p> <p>6. It takes 4 equal fourths put together to make one whole.</p> <p>7. One half is just 1 of the 2 equal parts.</p> <p>8. A fourth is also called a quarter, like a quarter of a dollar.</p> <p>9. Two equal pieces means each piece is one half.</p> <p>10. Three equal pieces means each piece is one third.</p> <p>11. Fewer shares means bigger pieces, so one half is bigger than one fourth.</p> <p>12. More shares means smaller pieces, so one third is smaller than one half.</p> <p>13. Equal shares must all be the same size to be fair.</p> | <p>14. Four equal parts means there are 4 fourths in the whole.</p> <p>15. Start with 3 thirds and take away 1: $3 - 1 = 2$ thirds left.</p> <p>16. Start with 2 halves and take away 1: $2 - 1 = 1$ half left.</p> <p>17. Start with 4 fourths and take away 2: $4 - 2 = 2$ fourths left.</p> <p>18. Four equal shares means each share is one fourth of the square.</p> <p>19. All 4 fourths put together make the whole shape.</p> <p>20. Two halves put back together make one whole circle.</p> <p>21. The pie is cut into 4 equal shares, so each slice is one fourth, which is also called a quarter.</p> <p>22. Two equal pieces are called halves. It takes both halves, 2 pieces, to make the whole granola bar.</p> <p>23. The pizza has 3 equal thirds. Maria eats 1, so $3 - 1 = 2$ thirds are left.</p> <p>24. Fewer equal shares make bigger pieces. Tom made halves and Lily made fourths, so Tom's pieces are bigger.</p> |
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