Equal Shares: Halves, Thirds, and Fourths

Name: _____	Date: _____	Score: _____ / 24

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.

1. Two equal shares of a shape are called _____. _____
2. Three equal shares of a shape are called _____. _____
3. Four equal shares of a shape are called _____. _____
4. How many halves make one whole? _____
5. How many thirds make one whole? _____
6. How many fourths make one whole? _____
7. One half of a shape has how many equal parts? _____
8. Another name for a fourth is a _____. _____
9. A cake is cut into 2 equal pieces. Each piece is a _____. _____
10. A sandwich is cut into 3 equal pieces. Each piece is a _____. _____
11. Which is bigger, one half or one fourth of the same shape? _____
12. Which is smaller, one third or one half of the same shape? _____
13. Are equal shares the same size or different sizes? _____
14. A shape split into 4 equal parts has how many fourths in all? _____
15. How many thirds are left if you eat 1 third of 3 thirds? _____
16. How many halves are left if you eat 1 half of 2 halves? _____
17. A pie has 4 equal slices. You eat 2. How many fourths are left? _____
18. If you split a square into 4 equal shares, each is one _____. _____
19. The whole shape is made of how many fourths? _____
20. You join 2 halves of a circle. What do you get? _____

Word Problems

21. Grandma baked a pie and cut it into 4 equal slices for 4 children. What is each child's slice called? _____
22. 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? _____
23. A pizza is cut into 3 equal shares. Maria eats 1 share. How many thirds of the pizza are left? _____
24. 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? _____

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Answer Keys

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

Step-by-Step Explanations

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

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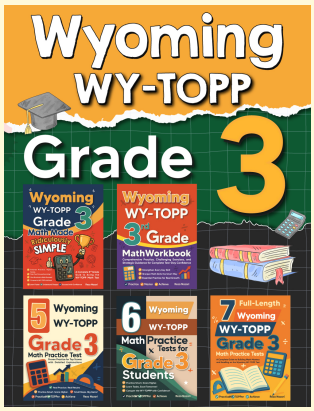

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