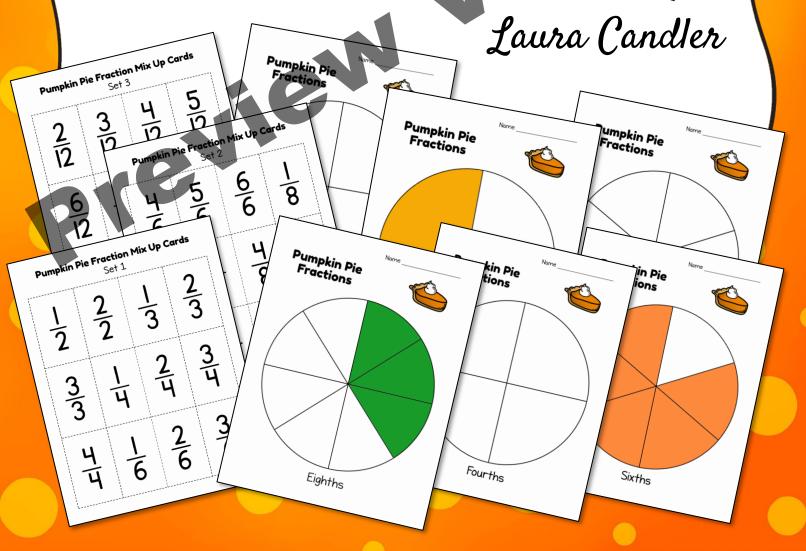


Comparing Fractions Activity



Pumpkin Pie Fraction Mix Up by Laura Candler

3rd & 4th Grade CCSS 3.NF.A.3, 4.NFA.1, 4.NFA.2



Pumpkin Pie Fraction Mix Up is active-engagement strategy to practice comparing fractions with unlike denominators. In this whole-group cooperative learning activity, each student will color a pumpkin pie pattern to match a given fraction card. Then all students mix around the room as directed by the teacher, stopping to compare and discuss their pumpkin pie fractions. This packet includes directions, fraction cards, and pumpkin pie patterns for students to color.

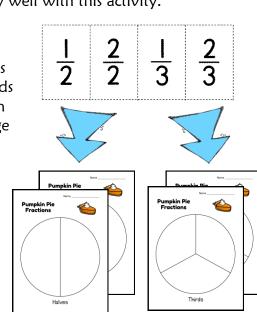
Materials Needed for Each Student

- Dry erase board and marker (or paper and pencil)
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Pumpkin Pie Fractions Card (pages 4-6)
- Pumpkin Pie Fractions circle pattern (pages 7-13)
- Paperclip

Advanced Preparation

- 1. Print one set of the fraction cards on pages 4, 5 and 6, and cut them apart. The entire set has 35 fractions, including all halves, thirds, fourths, sixths, eighths, and twelfths. You only need one card per student, so select the ones you plan to use and set the others aside.

 Laura's Tip: You might want to remove the fractions that are equivalent to one whole such as 3/3 and 4/4 because they don't work particularly well with this activity.
- 2. Print one Pumpkin Pie Fractions pattern (pages 8-13) for each fraction card you selected. Look at the fractions' denominators to guide you in deciding how many copies of each page to print. For example, the four fraction cards on the right require two copies of the pumpkin pie cut in half (page 8) and two copies of the pie cut in thirds (page 9). Print an extra copy of each pattern because you can expect a few students to make a mistake when coloring their pumpkin pies. You'll also need an extra copy of the fourths and eighths pie patterns to use during your demonstration. The whole pumpkin pie (page 7) is not needed unless you want to use it to demonstrate how fractions represent parts of a whole.
- 3. Paper clip each fraction card to its corresponding Pumpkin Pie Fractions pattern.



Comparing Fractions Review

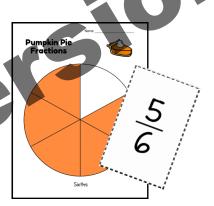
Before you begin the Pumpkin Pie Fractions activity, have your students solve a few fraction comparison problems as a warm up. Write the two fractions shown on the right side by side on the board and leave a space to add the comparison symbol later. Ask your students to copy the fractions onto their own dry erase boards and decide which fraction is larger. Review how to

$$\frac{3}{4}$$
 $>$ $\frac{2}{8}$

use the greater than, less than, and equal to signs, and ask your students to draw one of the symbols to compare the fractions. After they do so, ask them to turn to a partner and justify their choices by drawing an illustration or explaining their thinking in words. In the example above, a student might say that he or she knows that 3 out of 4 is more than half, and 2/8 is less than half, so 3/4 must be greater than 2/8. While they are working, color two pumpkin pie fraction circles to represent 3/4 and 2/8, and show your students how to compare the models to verify their answers. If needed, present several more review problems.

Pumpkin Pie Fraction Mix Up Directions

- 1. Give each student one fraction card with its corresponding pumpkin pie pattern. Ask students to color in the number of sections needed to create the fraction on their card.
- 2. When everyone is finished, ask them to fold their drawings in half (with the illustrations inside) and paper clip their fraction card to the folded page.
- 3. Have your students stand and gather the following materials: dry erase board, marker, and fraction card attached to the folded pumpkin pie drawing.



- 4. Give a signal and everyone to walk quietly around the room, mixing with their classmates. Your signal could be a hand clap, chimes, music, or simply saying "Mix!" Repeat the signal, and ask everyone to stop and pair up with someone near them. Check to be sure everyone has a partner. If you have an odd number of students, participate in the activity yourself and choose a different student to be your partner each time.
- 5. Ask your students to show their fraction cards to their partners without opening their folded drawings. Both students record the fractions on their dry erase boards in the same order, and without talking, they compare the fractions using <, >, or =. Next, without looking at their Pumpkin Pie Fraction models, students compare answers and explain their thinking. Finally, on a signal from you, they show their fraction illustrations to their partners and compare the models to find out if their answers were correct.

 Modification: If your students need visual models when comparing fractions, allow them open their papers and refer to their drawings as soon as they begins step 5.
- 6. Ask everyone to refold their papers and reattach the fraction card to the outside. Next, ask them to swap their fraction materials with their partners. This will ensure that your students are working with a variety of different fractions throughout the activity.
- 7. Give the signal to move and say, "Mix!" Repeat steps 4 through 8 as time allows. Each time your students stop and pair up, remind them to find a new partner that they have not worked with before.

Pumpkin Pie Fraction Mix Up Cards

Set 1

1 2	2 2	<u>1</u>	2
3		1 2 4	<u>3</u>
4-4	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>

Pumpkin Pie Fraction Mix Up Cards

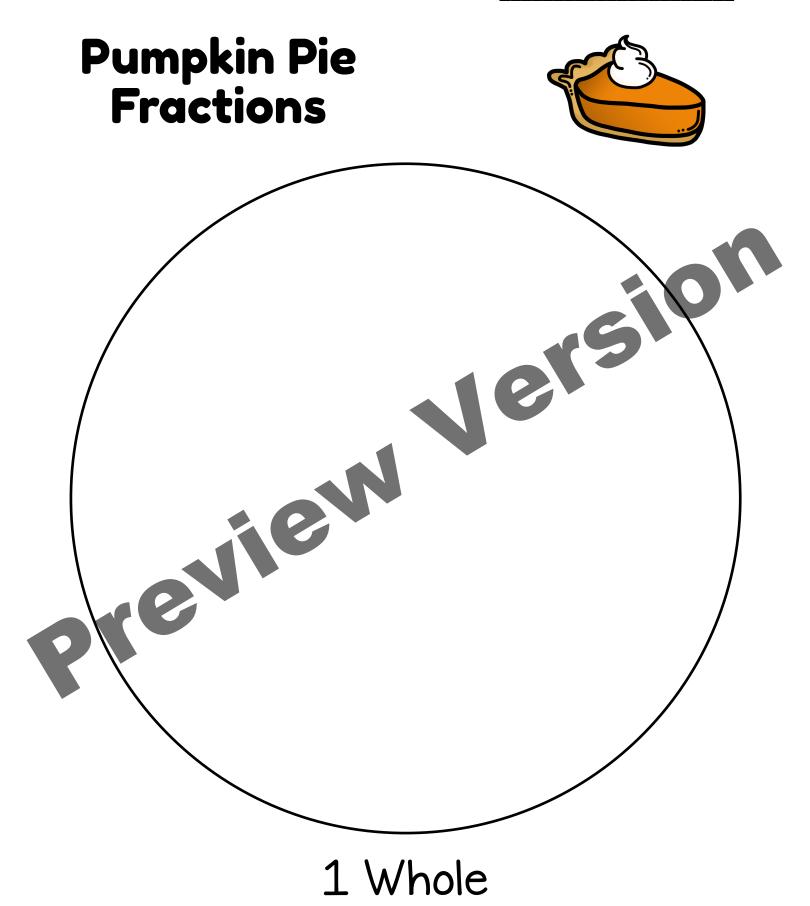
Set 2

4	5	6	
2 8	3	14 8	<u>5</u>
<u>6</u>	7 8	8	1 12

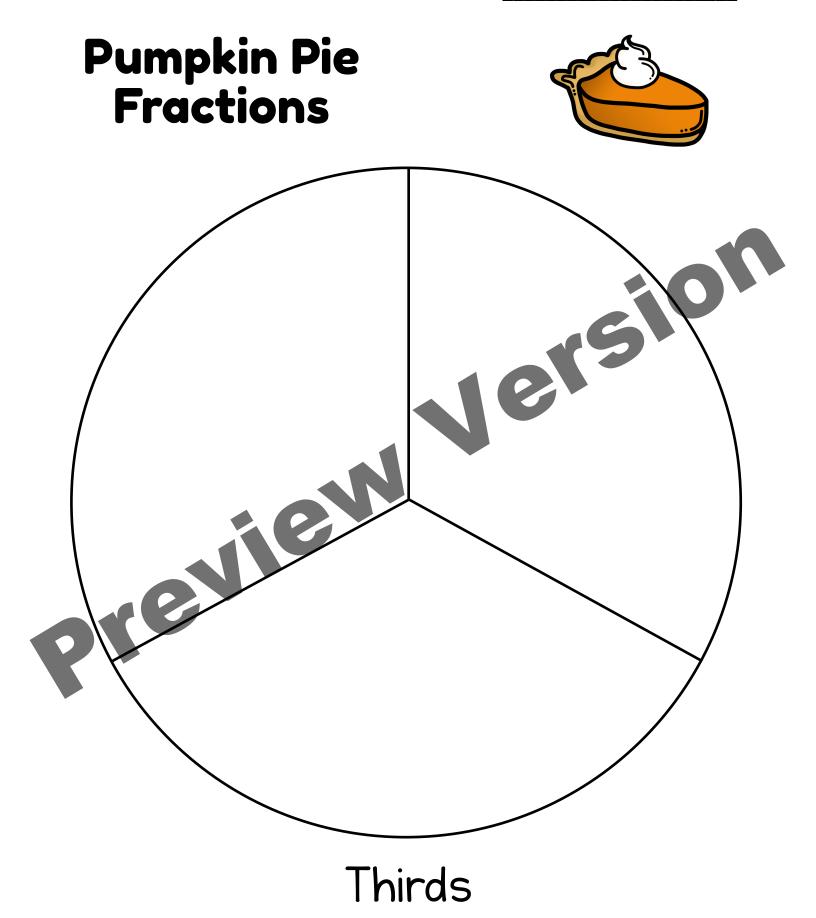
Pumpkin Pie Fraction Mix Up Cards

Set 3

<u>2</u> 12	3 12	4 12	<u>5</u>
<u>6</u> 12	7.1	18/12 12	9 12
1 <u>0</u> 12	<u> 1</u> 12	1 <u>2</u> 12	



Pumpkin Pie Fractions Halves



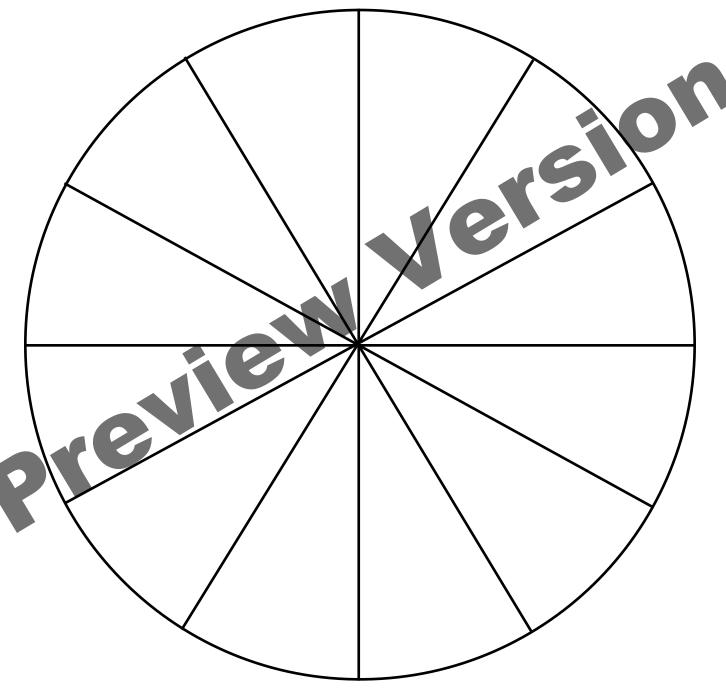
Pumpkin Pie Fractions Fourths

Pumpkin Pie Fractions Sixths

Pumpkin Pie Fractions Eighths

Pumpkin Pie Fractions





Twelfths

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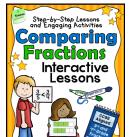


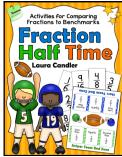
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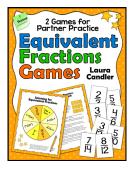
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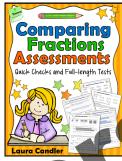


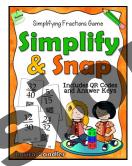


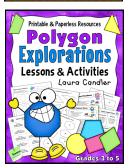






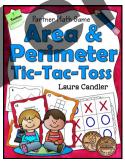






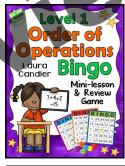


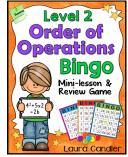


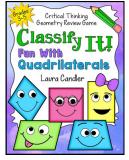


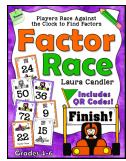


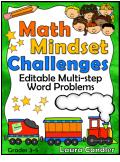


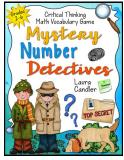


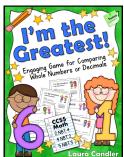


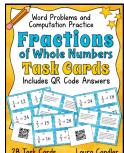


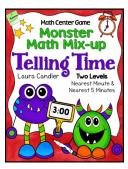












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