

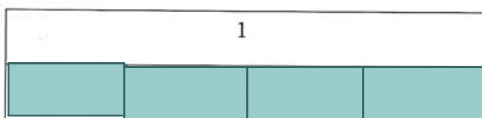
Using Fraction Bars to Understand Division of Fractions

Suppose we want to multiply $1 \div \frac{1}{4}$. What question is this asking?

The statement is asking how many $\frac{1}{4}$'s are in 1. This can be visualized with

fraction bars. Locate the bar labeled 1 and the bars labeled $\frac{1}{4}$. How many

of the $\frac{1}{4}$ bars fit in the unit bar? (4)



Use the fraction bars to answer $\frac{1}{4} \div \frac{1}{8}$.



The bars show that $\frac{1}{8}$ fits in the $\frac{1}{4}$ twice, so the answer is 2.

Use the fraction bars to answer $\frac{3}{4} \div \frac{5}{12}$.

The bars show that $\frac{5}{12}$'s fits in $\frac{3}{4}$'s at least 1 time and almost 2 times.

Studying the extra pieces we can see that there are only 4 out of the 5 pieces we are trying to find so the answer is $1\frac{4}{5}$.

