Understanding Equivalent Fractions

Today's Standard

4.NF.A1 - Explain why a fraction a/b is equivalent to a fraction (n × a)/(n × b) by using visual fraction models, with attention to how the number and size of the parts differ even though the two fractions themselves are the same size. Use this principle to recognize and generate equivalent fractions.

Real-World Applications for this Standard

Sharing pizza slices equally among friends; Measuring ingredients for a recipe; Dividing a piece of fabric into equal parts; Splitting a bill at a restaurant; Comparing different portions of a whole in a science experiment

Today I Learned

Today, we learned about equivalent fractions. Equivalent fractions are different fractions that represent the same amount. For example, 1/2 is the same as 2/4 or 3/6. We use models like fraction bars to see how this works.

Common Stumbling Blocks

Sometimes, kids think that changing the top and bottom numbers of a fraction changes its value. But it doesn't! Also, they might think that fractions with different numbers can't be the same. Using pictures helps show that they can be.

Quiz Me

- What is an equivalent fraction?
- How can you make an equivalent fraction?
- What happens to the parts of the fraction when you change it?
- Can different fractions be the same?
- Why do we use fraction bars?

Help Me

Equivalent fractions are used in real life when we share things equally, like cutting a pizza or sharing candy. Even if the pieces look different, they can still be the same amount. Using pictures helps us see this better.