Understanding Fraction Multiplication

Today's Standard

5.NF.B5a - Comparing the size of a product to the size of one factor on the basis of the size of the other factor, without performing the indicated multiplication.

Real-World Applications for this Standard

Comparing portions of a recipe when doubling or halving it; Determining the size of a piece of land when given a fraction of it; Understanding discounts and price reductions in shopping; Estimating the amount of paint needed for a fraction of a wall; Calculating time needed for part of a project

Today I Learned

Today, we learned how to compare the size of a product to one of its factors based on the size of the other factor, without doing the multiplication. This helps us understand fractions better.

Common Stumbling Blocks

Some kids think that multiplying fractions always makes a smaller number or always a whole number. We use pictures and examples to show this isn't true.

Quiz Me

- What happens when you multiply a fraction by one?

- Is the product of two fractions always smaller?

- Can the product of two fractions be a fraction?

- What tool can we use to compare fractions?

- Why is it important to understand fraction multiplication?

Help Me

When we multiply fractions, we can compare the size of the answer to one of the starting numbers without doing the math. For example, if you know half of a pizza is bigger than a quarter, you understand this idea!