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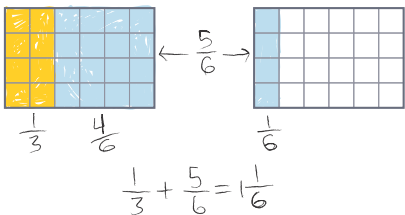
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About the Mathematics in This Unit

Dear Family,

Our class is starting a new mathematics unit about fractions called *Rectangles, Clocks, and Tracks*. During this unit, students use their knowledge of fractions, fraction equivalents, and a variety of representations to compare fractions and to add and subtract fractions.

Throughout the unit, students work toward these goals:

Benchmarks/Goals	Examples
<p>Add fractions with unlike denominators.</p>	<p>Sam and his friends ate $\frac{1}{3}$ of a large cheese pizza and $\frac{5}{6}$ of a large mushroom pizza. How much pizza did Sam and his friends eat?</p>  $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{5}{6} = 1\frac{1}{6}$
<p>Subtract fractions with unlike denominators.</p>	$3\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{3}{8} =$ $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{4}{8}$ $3\frac{4}{8} - 1 = 2\frac{4}{8}$ $2\frac{4}{8} - \frac{3}{8} = 2\frac{1}{8}$

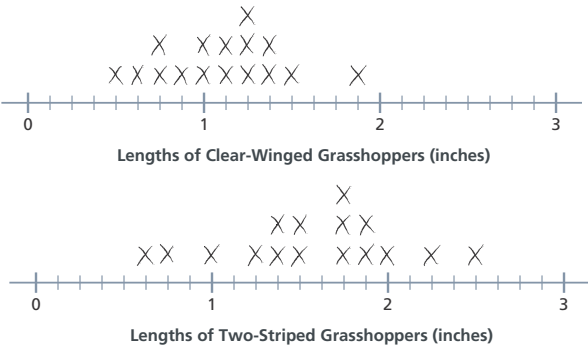


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About the Mathematics in This Unit

Benchmarks/Goals	Examples
<p>Represent data including fractions on a line plot and solve addition and subtraction problems about the data.</p>	<p>Which is longer, the longest clear-winged grasshopper or the longest two-striped grasshopper? How much longer?</p>  <p>The longest two-striped grasshopper is $\frac{5}{8}$ inch longer than the longest clear-winged grasshopper.</p>

This is the first of three units in Grade 5 that focus on rational numbers (fractions and decimals). In Unit 6, students extend their work with fractions to working with adding and subtracting decimals, and in Unit 7, students extend this work with fractions and decimals to the operations of multiplication and division.

In our math class, students spend time discussing problems in depth and are asked to share their reasoning and solutions. It is important that students solve math problems in ways that make sense to them. At home, encourage your child to explain the math thinking that supports those solutions.

Please look for more information and activities about *Rectangles, Clocks, and Tracks* that will be sent home in the coming weeks.