

Fruit and Fractions

Here's a "cool" fruit salad recipe that adds up to fraction practice.

PREPARATION

If you are going to prepare the fruit salad in class, see the recipe for preparation details. Adjust the ingredients to your class size.

DIRECTIONS

1. Explain to students that you are giving them a recipe they can try at home. The recipe makes enough Rootin' Tootin' Fruit Salad to serve 3 people. Ask students how they would determine the amount of ingredients to serve 6 people. They may suggest adding, or multiplying by 2.
2. Review with students how to add fractions with like denominators by adding the numerators. Also review that when the numerator is equal to the denominator (such as the sum of $\frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{5}$), the fraction equals 1 ($\frac{2}{5} = 1$). Depending on students' experience with fractions, you may want them to reduce each fraction to lowest terms when possible ($\frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$).
3. Distribute reproducible page 42 and have students double the recipe, filling in the new ingredient amounts on the blanks. Review the results as a class. If students will make the recipe in class, distribute the ingredients and utensils and have students make the fruit salad.



ASSESSMENT

Answers: $\frac{3}{4}$ pound seedless grapes, $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ cup blueberries, 1 banana, $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ cup orange juice, 2 tablespoons sugar, 4 teaspoons cornstarch. Watch for a common error: students add both the numerator and denominator when adding fractions.



EXTENSION

Ask students what they could do to find how much of each ingredient they would need for 9 people. For 12 people? Challenge them to use repeated addition to find the new amounts.



VARIATION

This recipe can also be used to practice fraction multiplication. Simply multiply each fraction by 2 for six servings, by 3 for nine servings, or by 4 for twelve servings.



Grouping

Individual
Small groups or whole class to make the recipe



You'll Need

- Fruit and Fractions (reproducible page 42), one copy for each student
- Optional (to make the recipe): seedless grapes, blueberries, bananas, apples, orange juice, sugar, cornstarch, 2 mixing bowls, measuring spoons, measuring cups, spoon, knife



Writing Connection

Where else besides recipes do students encounter fractions? Ask them to make a list.