

**whole number:** a number that is 0 or greater    **unit fraction:** a fraction with a numerator of 1

# Dividing Whole Numbers by Unit Fractions

Before you begin, convert the whole number into a fraction. To do this, make the whole number the numerator of a fraction. Make the denominator 1.

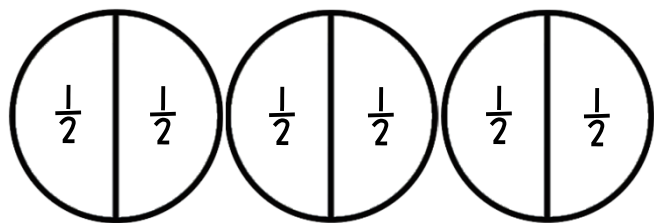
$$4 = \frac{4}{1}$$

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO DIVIDE A WHOLE NUMBER BY A FRACTION?

$$3 \div \frac{1}{2} = 6$$

“How many  $\frac{1}{2}$ s are there in 3 wholes?”

Divide 3 pizzas into  $\frac{1}{2}$  equal parts!



There are six  $\frac{1}{2}$ s in 3 wholes.

**K**  
KEEP

**C**  
CHANGE

**F**  
FLIP

**M**  
MULTIPLY

$$3 \div \frac{1}{2}$$

Put the whole number over 1.

Then, use the same steps you use when dividing fractions by fractions...

$$\frac{3}{1} \div \frac{1}{2}$$

**KEEP** the first fraction the same  
**CHANGE** the sign from  $\div$  to  $\times$   
**FLIP** the second fraction  
**MULTIPLY** straight across

$$\frac{3}{1} \times \frac{2}{1} = \frac{6}{1} = 6$$

Simplify, if needed.

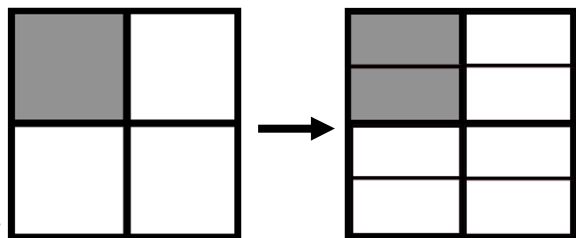
# Dividing Unit Fractions by Whole Numbers

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO DIVIDE A FRACTION BY A WHOLE NUMBER?

$$\frac{1}{4} \div 2 = \frac{1}{8}$$

“ $\frac{1}{4}$  divided into 2 equal parts.”

Divide  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the cake into 2 equal parts.



Now you have a cake cut into  $\frac{1}{8}$ s!

**K**  
KEEP

**C**  
CHANGE

**F**  
FLIP

**M**  
MULTIPLY

$$\frac{1}{4} \div 2$$

Put the whole number over 1.

**KEEP** the first fraction the same  
**CHANGE** the sign from  $\div$  to  $\times$   
**FLIP** the second fraction  
**MULTIPLY** straight across

$$\frac{1}{4} \div \frac{2}{1}$$

Simplify, if needed.

$$\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{8}$$

