

## The Division Symbol: ÷

### Activity

Students need access to an individual pile of counters, roughly 20-50 cubes.

1. Place counters in front of students.
2. Ask a partition division question such as “I have 12 marbles. I share them between 2 friends. How many do they get each?”

Have each student solve the question before using the division symbol.

3. As  
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4. Show the students that we have a short way to write this operation:
  - $12 \div 2 = 6$
5. Explain that we can read this in different ways:
  - “twelve divided by 2 equals six”
  - “twelve shared between two equals six”
6. Give students further examples to work out. Ask them to record each example as a number sentence including the division symbol:
  - $15 \div 5 =$
  - $16 \div 4 =$
  - $20 \div 5 =$
  - $12 \div 6 =$

**Teacher Instructions:** Allow students to use counters to solve these questions. It is a good idea for students to have a bag of about 50 counters in their desk. Have students give a “sharing” or “division” story for the different questions.

Answer these:

1. 24 shared evenly among 4 = \_\_\_\_\_

2. 18 divided into 9 equal groups = \_\_\_\_\_

3.

4.

5.



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Write the number sentence when answering these:

9. My 3 dogs are getting some treats. I have 12 treats to share between them. How many treats will they get each?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. We share 8 cupcakes between 4 people. How many cupcakes does each person receive?

\_\_\_\_\_

# ANSWERS

**Teacher Instructions:** Allow students to use counters to solve these questions. It is a good idea for students to have a bag of about 50 counters in their desk. Have students give a “sharing” or “division” story for the different questions.

Answer these:

1. 24 shared evenly among 4 = 6

2. 18 divided into 9 equal groups = 2

3.

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4.

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5.

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Write the number sentence when answering these:

9. My 3 dogs are getting some treats. I have 12 treats to share between them. How many treats will they get each?

12 ÷ 3 = 4

10. We share 8 cupcakes between 4 people. How many cupcakes does each person receive?

8 ÷ 4 = 2