Name _____

Apply Understanding of Multiplication to Multiplying Fractions

Topic 8 Standards

5.NF.B.4a, 5.NF.B.4b, 5.NF.B.5a, 5.NF.B.5b, 5.NF.B.6

*See the front of the Student's Edition for complete standards.*

Dear Family,

In math class, your student will be learning how to multiply fractions and mixed numbers. Your student may have assumed that multiplying numbers always makes them larger, and dividing always makes a number smaller. He or she may be surprised at first that multiplying a number by a fraction less than 1 gives a product that is less than the original number, not more. Your student will also need to understand that $\frac{1}{3}$ of a number means $\frac{1}{3}$ times that number and is a way of expressing multiplication.

Here is an activity you can use to acquaint your student with the concept of finding a fraction of a fraction.

Taking a Part Apart

Each of the figures below represents the number 1 divided into fractional parts. Ask your child to shade a part of each figure on the left to represent the fraction above it. In the figure on the right, ask your child to shade only a part of the area he or she shaded before, so as to represent the fraction of a fraction above it.
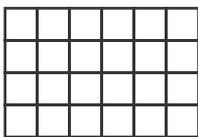
1. one-sixth   one-fourth of one-sixth   **2.** one-half   one-third of one-half
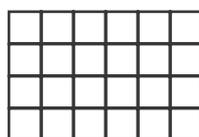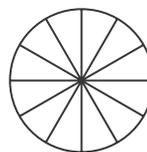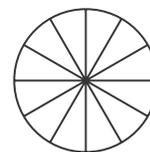
Observe Your Child

Focus on Mathematical Practice 5
Use appropriate tools strategically.

Help your child become proficient with Mathematical Practice 5. Ask your child to use the figures to describe how the shading changed from the left to right figure. Have him or her write a new fraction for the figure on the right.