Math in Focus Singapore Math by Marshall Cavendish

Family Letters and Activities

Chapter 3 Multiplying and Dividing Fractions and Decimals

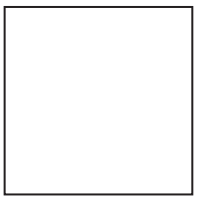
Dear Family,

In this chapter, your student will learn about operations with fractions and decimals. Your students will focus on the skills of multiplying and dividing with fractions and mixed numbers and with decimals.

Activity

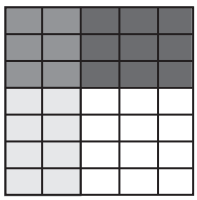
You can help your student practice multiplying fractions or decimals with this modeling activity.

- With your student, you will create a diagram that models the product $\frac{3}{7} \times \frac{2}{5}$. Start by drawing a square.



- The first fraction, $\frac{3}{7}$, represents 3 out of 7 equal parts. Divide the square horizontally into 7 equal parts and shade 3 of them.

- The second fraction, $\frac{2}{5}$, represents 2 out of 5 equal parts. Divide the square vertically into 5 equal parts. Use a different color or pattern to shade 2 of them.



- Count the number of parts that your shaded twice, 6, and total number of parts, 35. This gives you the product: $\frac{3}{7} \times \frac{2}{5} = \frac{6}{35}$. Repeat the modeling with more products.
- To multiply two decimals, such as 0.8×0.7, divide the square horizontally and vertically into 10 equal parts. Shade 8 out of 10 in one direction, and 7 out of 10 in the other.

Vocabulary to Practice

Two numbers are **reciprocals** if their product is 1. The reciprocal of 5 is $\frac{1}{5}$.

To find the reciprocal of a mixed number, first write it as an improper fraction. Because $2\frac{2}{3} = \frac{8}{3}$, the reciprocal of $2\frac{2}{3}$ is $\frac{8}{3}$.

Online Resources

For additional Parent Resources *my.hrw.com*