

Lesson Title: Exploring Common Factors with the TI-73 Graphing Calculator
Unit: Fun Fraction Projects
Grade Level: 6th grade
Estimated time requirement: 1 or 2 class periods
Summary: Students will use the calculator to simplify fractions and investigate common factors and the greatest common factor of the numerator and denominator.
Objectives:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will use the calculator as a thinking tool to help find the GCF of two numbers.
Content Standards:
TEKS: 6.1E, 6.11D, 6.12
Assessment:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student activity page (see download) • Informal assessment by teacher during student activity8884
Materials:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity from TI-73 Graphing Calculator Activity Book • TI-73 Graphing Calculators • TI-73 Overhead Graphing Calculator
Resources:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TI-73 Exploration Book
Prior Knowledge/Skills: rules of divisibility, factors, common factor, numerator, denominator, prime numbers, prime factors
Procedures:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teachers will guide the students through the activity. The instructions are laid out very well for the teacher to walk the students through the activity using the overhead calculator screen. Instructions are also given to reset the calculator to begin the activity.
Modifications:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with special needs or modifications might benefit by working in partners.
Technology Infusion:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TI-73 Graphing Calculator • Overhead TI-73 Graphing Calculator
Cultural Connections: Students can bring in favorite recipes which represent different ethnic backgrounds. Students can “double” the recipe or “cut the recipe in half” which will help reinforce the idea of common factors and relationship between equivalence.
Family Connection: Involve parents in a Family Math Night where the students take the role of teacher and teach the parents the calculator commands in order to find the GCF. Parents will see the calculators are not being used to calculate an answer but they are being used as a teaching tool.
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