



HOW TO FIND A UNIT FRACTION OF A NUMBER

A unit fraction is a fraction where the numerator (top number) is equal to 1.

One way of finding a unit fraction of a number which is great for visual learners is by using fraction strips.

Before children tackle this they should understand how to find fractions of shapes and know what a unit fraction is.

Let us look at an example of finding a $\frac{1}{5}$ of 35.

Here are the fraction strips for a whole and one-fifth.

1 WHOLE				
$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$

If we now replace the whole with 35 'wholes' we need to split 35 into fifths and work out what number goes in each part of the strip of fifths.

35				
7	7	7	7	7

This is exactly the same as sharing out 35 into 5 equal groups or dividing 35 by 5. This can either be done using times tables ($5 \times ? = 35$), or the 35 can be shared out equally into the 5 strips.

So we finally end up with:

$$\frac{1}{5} \text{ of } 35 = 35 \div 5 = 7$$

