From “watch me” to “your turn”

Years 4–6; equal groups, unit fractions and multiplication

1. Study: 3/4 of 24. Find one quarter:24÷4=6. Take three quarters:6×3=18. Explain what each step finds.

2. Complete:2/5 of 30. 30÷5=6. Then 6×2=___. Explain why the 2 is used.

3. Complete:5/6 of 42. 42÷___=___. Then___×___=___.

Try it. Explain it. Check it.

4. Find 3/8 of 40 without the step prompts. Show a check.

5. Find 2/3 of 27. Explain your method using equal groups or a drawing.

6. Three quarters of a number is 18. What is the whole number? Show how you know.

Answers and teaching notes

1. Four equal groups of 6; three groups total 18. The first step finds one quarter, the second finds three quarters.

2. 12. The numerator 2 selects two fifths, each worth 6.

3. 42÷6=7;7×5=35.

4. 15. One eighth is 5; three eighths total 15. Check:8×5=40.

5. 18. One third is 9; two thirds total 18.

6. 24. Three parts total 18, so one part is 6 and four parts total 24. Teacher frame: name the goal; model and explain; leave one decision blank; remove more support; check an independent example.

What to ask next

Ask “What does this step find?” rather than only “What comes next?” Reintroduce a representation if the pupil can copy the procedure but cannot explain it.

Original SkillFlex activity prepared with AI assistance and editorial checks. Not classroom-trialled. Adapt to your pupils; suggested years are flexible.