



This activity will help you understand the relative value of fractions by making actual fraction strips. You will use the fraction strips to show the class how to make equivalent fractions.

**MATERIALS:**

- Pencil
- Scissors
- 4 strips of different colored construction paper, 3" X 18"
- 1 black strip of construction paper, 3" X 18"

**MAKING THE STRIPS:**

Take four strips of different colors. Compare the strips to be sure they are the same length. Each strip represents "1 WHOLE". You will be cutting some strips into fractional parts.

1. Label the black strip "1 WHOLE".
2. Take another strip and fold it carefully in half.
3. Label each section  $\frac{1}{2}$  and cut on the fold line.
4. Take another strip and fold carefully in half two times.
5. Count the sections to check that there are four. Label each part  $\frac{1}{4}$  and cut them apart.
6. Take another strip. This time fold it in half three times. Be very careful to fold accurately.
7. Count the sections to check that there are eight. Label each part  $\frac{1}{8}$  and cut them apart.
8. Continue with the last strip. Fold very carefully four times. This time you will get  $\frac{1}{16}$  for each section.

Put all your fraction pieces in a large envelope.

Use your fraction strips to demonstrate equivalent fractions to your class. Show how many different combinations of fraction strips on the black "WHOLE" strip will equal "1 WHOLE".

*Adapted from Family Math*