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ACTIVITY # 2

Pirate Picnic

Children practice sharing a group of items and dividing a whole object into equal parts as they prepare a picnic for a group of hungry pirates.

LEARNING GOALS

- Separate a set of objects into equal groups
- Partition whole objects into equal parts
- Become familiar with simple fractions: one half, one fourth, one eighth

ITEMS NEEDED

- Tray of grapes, carrot strips, crackers or other snack food that can be equally distributed among a group of children
- One banana for every two or four children, plus one more
- Napkins or paper plates

GET READY

View *The Pirate Problem* video clip with your group at pbskids.org/learn, and review the concept of fair sharing: sharing one item or a group of items so that *each person* has the same number. Then invite the children to pretend to be pirates and join you for a Pirate Picnic. Have the children sit in pairs or groups of four, and ask one child to pass out napkins or paper plates. Lay out the snacks in front of the group.

HAVE FUN!

1. Start by practicing how to “fairly share” a group of items. Use the grapes, carrot strips, or other snack food that can be equally distributed among each group. Say, “I’ve gathered all my pirate friends together for a picnic, but we have a BIG PROBLEM! I have all these snacks in front of me, but your plates are empty. What should we do?” Invite the group to answer, and allow them to practice “fair sharing” the various snacks.
2. Now introduce the concept of “fair sharing” one item. Pick up one banana. Say, “Oh, no! We fairly shared all of the grapes, but now we have a REALLY BIG PROBLEM! I’d like each group of pirates to share a banana, but there is only *one banana* for each group! What should we do?” Invite the children to answer, and explain that in order to share the banana fairly, it must be *divided* into equal parts.

(continued)

All video clips, games, and activities in this resource can be found at pbskids.org/learn



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ACTIVITY # 2

Pirate Picnic (continued)

HAVE FUN! (cont.)

3. Bring a group of four children to the front of the room. Suggest, "Let's try slicing this banana into equal pieces." Ask, "How many pieces will we need so that each pirate has one?"
4. Slice the banana in half. "Now I have two pieces that are the same size. Each piece is called *one half*."
5. Slice each half into two equal pieces. "Now I have four equal pieces. Each piece is called *one fourth*. There is one slice for each pirate."
6. Now ask the children how many slices of banana they will need so that each pirate has two pieces. Slice each piece one more time. Pointing to each slice with your finger, slowly count "1, 2, 3, 4... We have 8 pieces all together. Each piece is called *one eighth*."
7. Have the groups practice "fair sharing" their bananas and enjoy their snack!

PROBLEM SOLVED!

When the bananas have all been shared fairly, sing the "**Problem Solved**" song!

♪ *Problem solved! The problem is solved!*
We solved the problem! Problem solved!



ANOTHER FUN IDEA

Use the Pirate Picnic as an opportunity to practice polite table manners and good personal hygiene skills, such as washing hands, placing napkins in the lap, serving others first, and saying "please" and "thank you."

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