4.1 Halves and Quarters

Objectives

- Recognize and name halves and quarters.
- Equate quarters to fourths.
- Read and write half and fourth as fractions.

Material

- Paper strips
- Paper squares
- Paper circles
- Other paper shapes

Prerequisites

Students should be able to add and subtract within 10 and know the name of basic shapes.

Although students were introduced to halves and quarters in *Primary Mathematics* 1B, the concept is sufficiently reviewed in this Part that a formal understanding of halves and quarters is not a prerequisite. Likely they understand "half" from everyday use.

Notes

In this part students will review halves and quarters. The fractional notations $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ are introduced.

$\frac{1}{2}$ of a whole means 1 out of 2 equal parts, and $\frac{1}{4}$ of a whole means 1 out of 4 equal parts. Two halves or four fourths make a whole.

Half of one whole is not necessarily the same as half of a different whole. If we want to compare $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$, they must both be fractions of the same whole.

In this unit the whole is one object, such as a pizza or a shape. Fractions of a set, where the whole is more than one object, will be introduced in *Primary Mathematics* 3.

A "quarter" used in this context means the same as a fourth. Students recently used the term quarter in the context of money. You may want to point out that since there are four quarters in a dollar, a quarter is a fourth of a dollar.

You can make the paper squares used in the lesson from regular sheets of paper by folding a corner up and cutting off the strip