

## Ordering Fractions Activity

Here is an activity that I have used with success.

On the front of a set of 4 x 6 index cards I write some fractions, up to 12ths. On the back of each card I shade in that fraction of the card. I then shuffle the cards up so they are in no particular order and place them on the eraser rail of the whiteboard, so the students can see the fractions, but not the shaded side.

I then ask the students to put the fractions in order (this can be an individual, small group or whole class activity). Once we have an agreed order I turn the cards over, slowly, one at a time, and not necessarily from smallest to biggest. If the cards are in order, the shaded bit 'grows' from left to right.

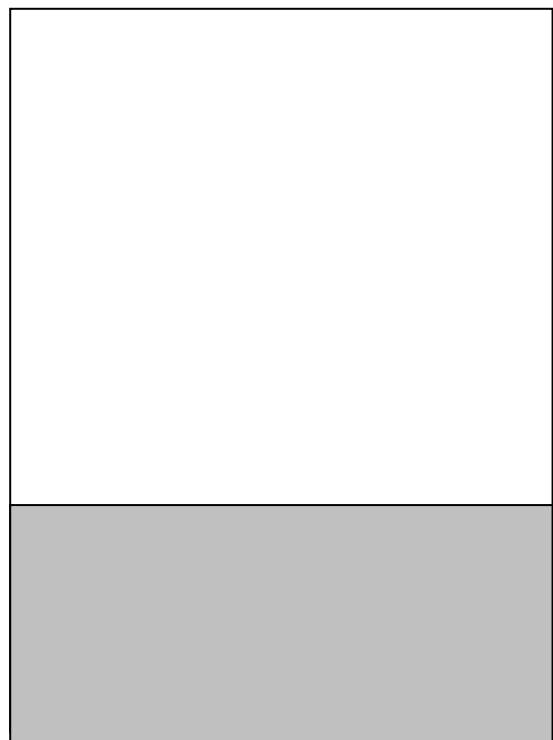
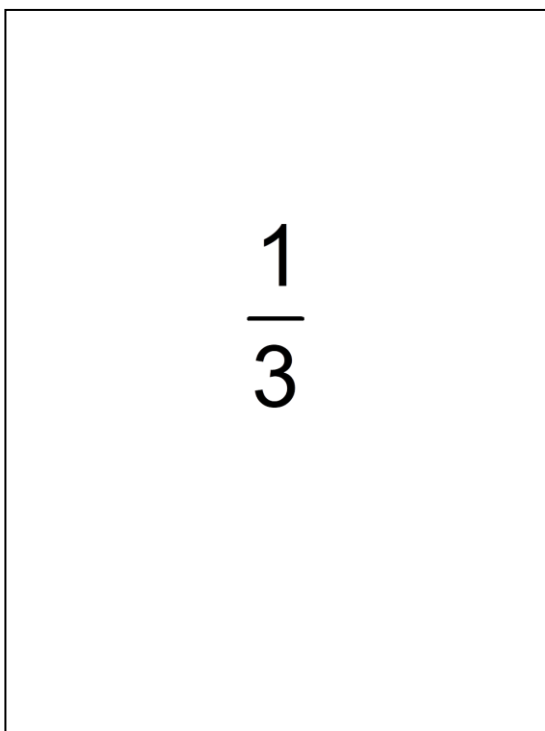
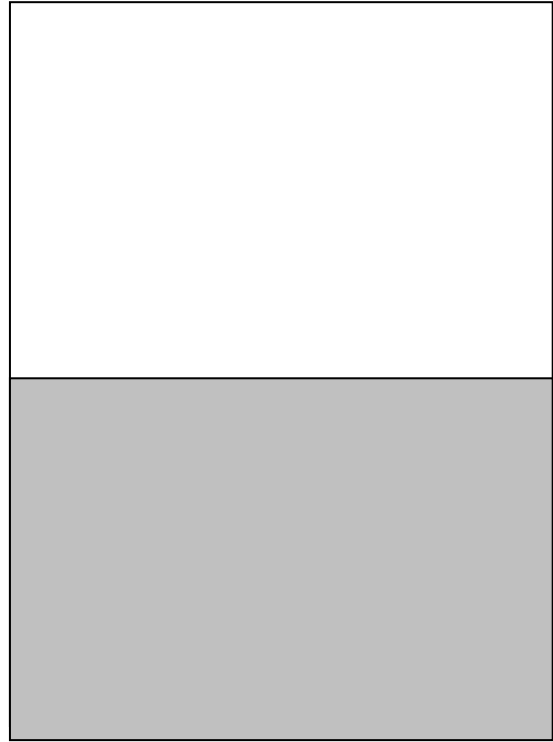
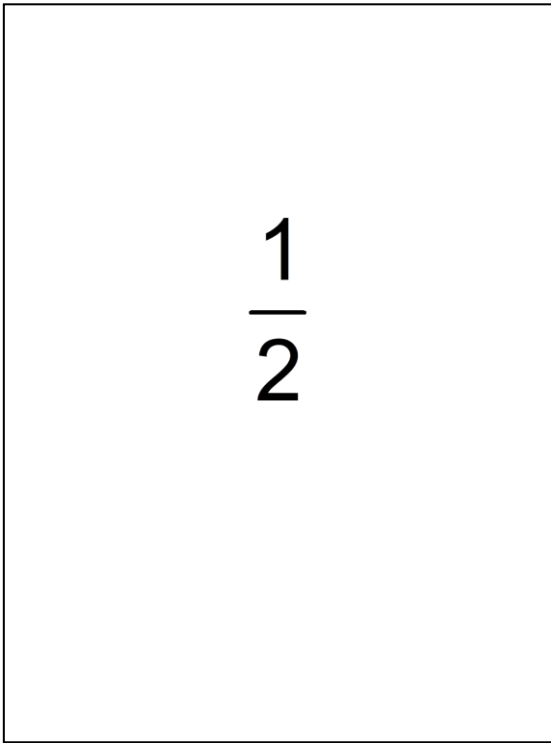
When turning the cards over, the idea is to create some anticipation and tension. I always leave the cards that are out of sequence (if there are any) until last. When I turn the last card, there is always a spontaneous cheer or groan.

It is fascinating how bringing a small twist into an activity can sometimes make a big difference. Having the kids check the answers by either using a calculator or finding common denominators doesn't have the same kick.

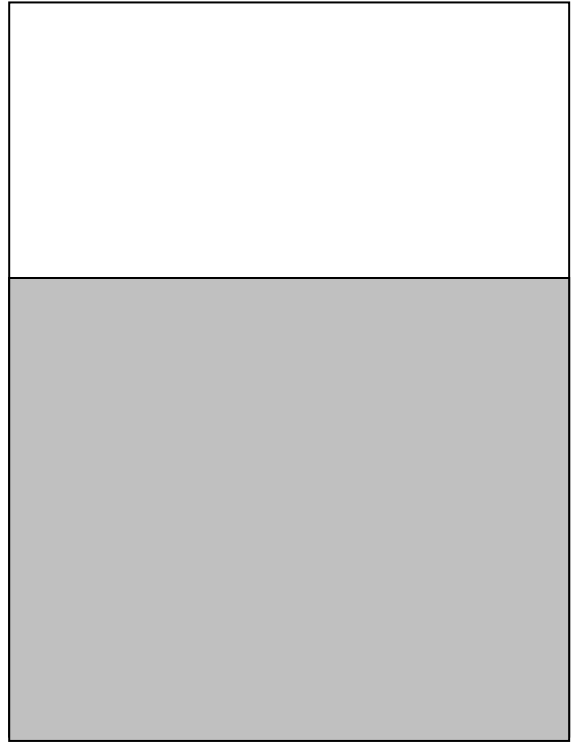
An alternative is to first put out a subset of the 'easy' fractions, have the students get those in order, and then ask them to slot in the harder ones.

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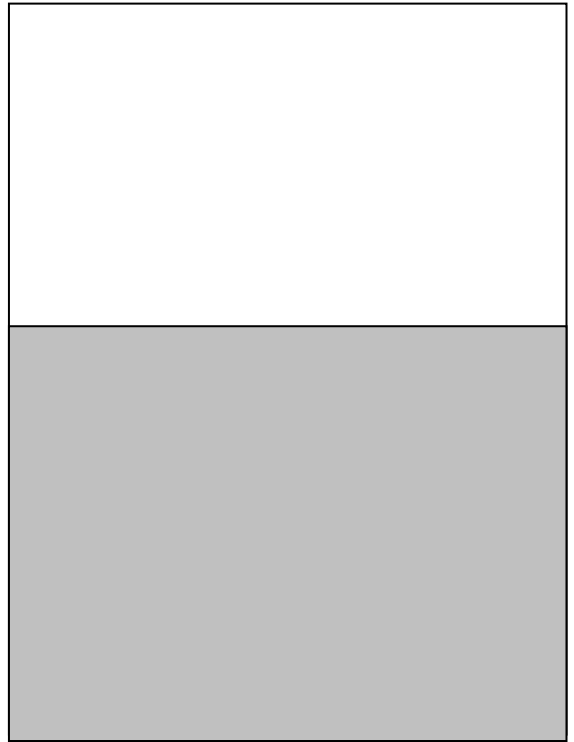
Cut out the cards. Glue the shaded card onto the back of the fraction card. Arrange the cards from least to greatest. Once you are done, turn them over to check your answers.



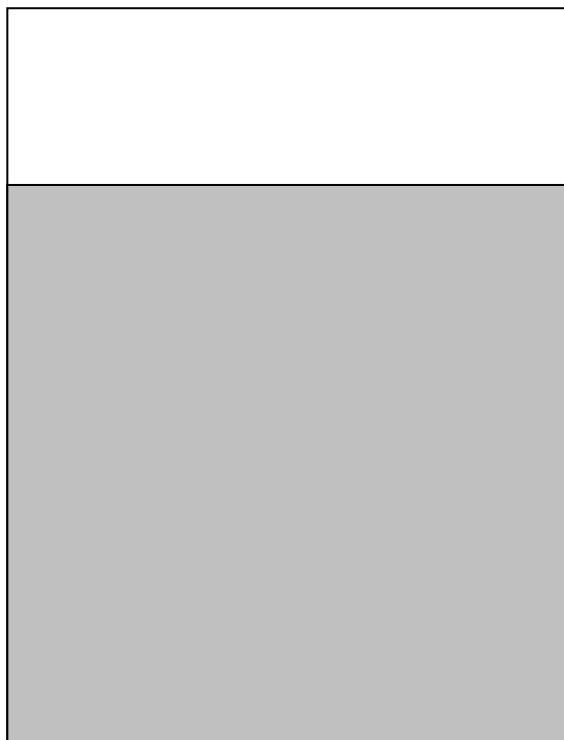
$$\frac{5}{8}$$



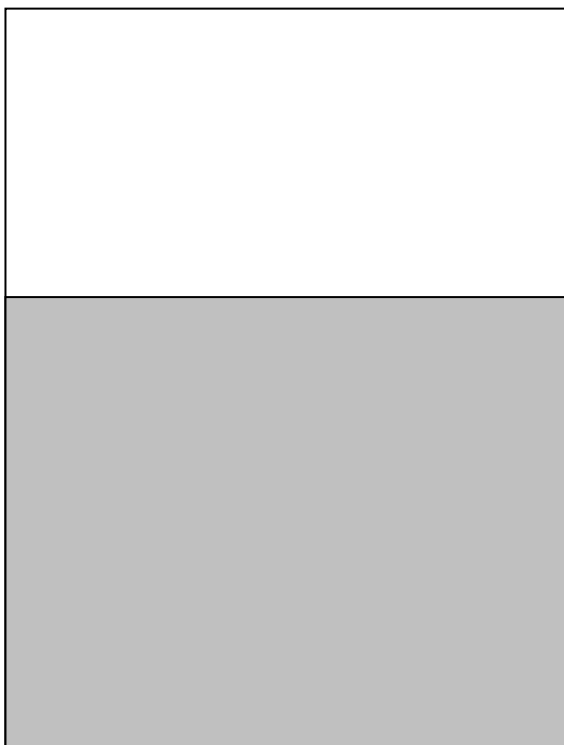
$$\frac{4}{7}$$



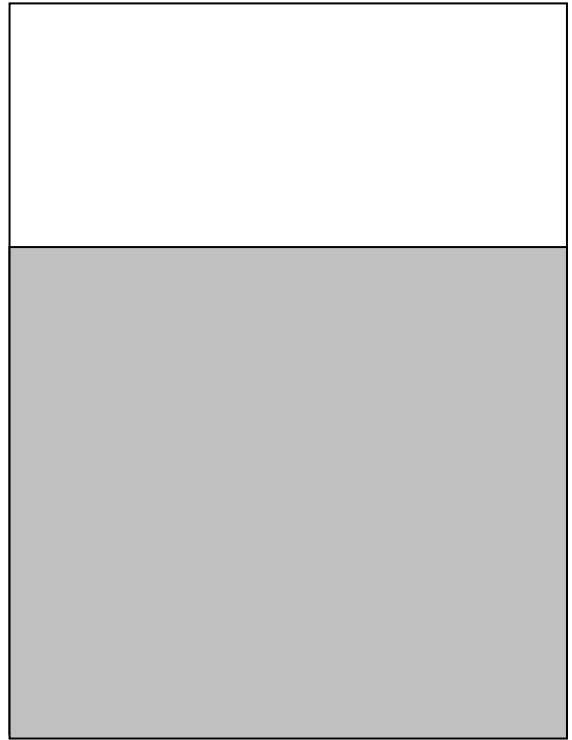
$$\frac{3}{4}$$



$$\frac{3}{5}$$



$$\frac{2}{3}$$



$$\frac{7}{12}$$

