

Objective

By the end of this lesson, Jessica will be able to understand and apply the process of reducing fractions, enabling her to simplify fractions to their lowest terms confidently.

Materials and Prep

- Paper and pencil
- A list of fractions to reduce (e.g., $\frac{4}{8}$, $\frac{10}{15}$, $\frac{12}{16}$)
- A whiteboard or chalkboard (optional for visual demonstration)

Before the lesson, ensure Jessica understands the concept of a fraction, including the numerator and denominator.

Activities

- **Fraction Matching Game:** Create cards with fractions on them. Jessica will match equivalent fractions by reducing them to their simplest form. This will help her visualize how fractions relate to one another.
- **Fraction Reduction Relay:** Set a timer and challenge Jessica to reduce as many fractions as possible within a set time. Afterward, review her answers together to reinforce learning.
- **Fraction Art:** Have Jessica draw a pizza divided into different fractional parts. Then, she can reduce the fractions based on the slices she colors in, making it a fun and creative way to learn.

Talking Points

- "What do you think it means to reduce a fraction?"
- "To reduce a fraction, we want to find the greatest common factor (GCF) of the numerator and denominator. Can you think of any factors of these numbers?"
- "When we divide both the numerator and the denominator by the GCF, we simplify the fraction. For example, if we have $\frac{4}{8}$, what do we get when we divide both by 4?"
- "Remember, a fraction is in its simplest form when the numerator and denominator have no common factors other than 1. Can you give me a fraction that is already simplified?"
- "Reducing fractions is important because it makes them easier to work with, especially in addition, subtraction, or when comparing sizes. Why do you think that is?"