Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will be able to add simple fractions and mixed numbers, both with and without regrouping, confidently and accurately. The student will also understand the importance of a common denominator and how to convert mixed numbers into improper fractions when necessary.

Materials and Prep

- Paper and pencil for calculations
- Whiteboard (optional) for visual explanations
- A timer for timed activities (optional)
- Knowledge of basic fraction concepts (numerators, denominators, and equivalent fractions)

Activities

- **Fraction War:** Play a card game where each player draws two cards. The first card represents the numerator and the second card the denominator to form a fraction. Players then add their fractions together. The player with the highest sum wins the round!
- **Mixed Number Relay:** Create a relay race where the student needs to convert mixed numbers into improper fractions and add them. Each correct answer allows them to move to the next step in the relay. This can be done with a timer for added excitement!
- Fraction Art: Have the student draw a large pizza divided into slices. They will label each slice with a fraction. Then, they can add different slices together to find out how much pizza they have in total!
- Fraction Story Problems: Create fun story problems involving fractions and mixed numbers, such as cooking recipes or sharing items among friends. The student will solve these problems by adding the fractions together.

Talking Points

- "Remember, to add fractions, we need a common denominator. Can you think of what that means?"
- "When we add mixed numbers, we can first convert them to improper fractions. Why do you think that helps?"
- "Regrouping is just like carrying over in addition. Have you encountered that before?"
- "Fractions can represent parts of a whole. How do you think this relates to our pizza art activity?"
- "In our Fraction War game, why do you think adding fractions can be competitive and fun?"
- "Can you think of real-life situations where adding fractions would be useful?"
- "Every time we add fractions, we're building our math skills! How does that make you feel about math?"