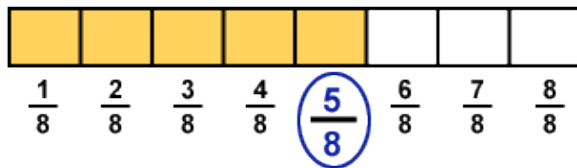


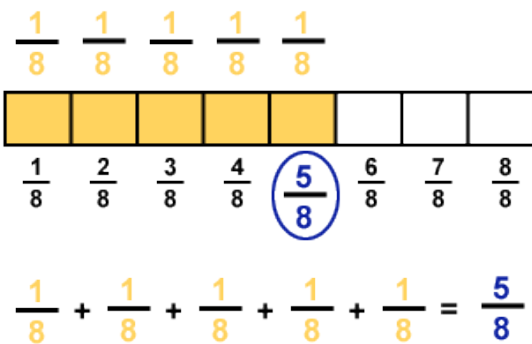
# Decomposing Fractions

To decompose a fraction simply means to take it apart.

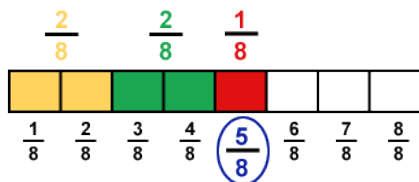
Let's take a look at  $\frac{5}{8}$



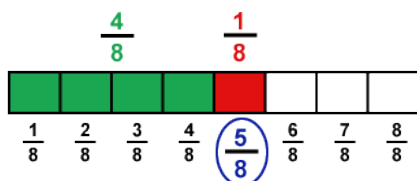
The most basic way to decompose a fraction is to break into unit fractions, which is when the numerator (top number) is 1. We can see that  $\frac{5}{8}$  is the same as the unit fraction  $\frac{1}{8}$  five times.



Here are some other ways you can decompose  $\frac{5}{8}$



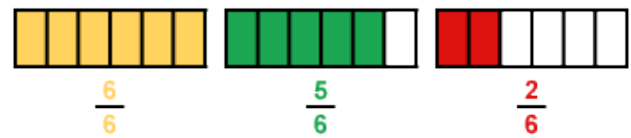
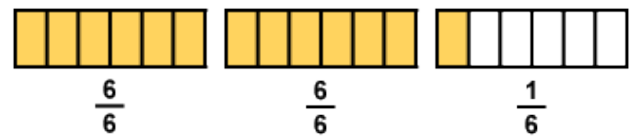
$$\frac{2}{8} + \frac{2}{8} + \frac{1}{8} = \frac{5}{8}$$



$$\frac{4}{8} + \frac{1}{8} = \frac{5}{8}$$

Let's try it with an improper fractions, which consists of a whole number and a fractions.

For example,  $2\frac{1}{6}$



$$\frac{6}{6} + \frac{5}{6} + \frac{2}{6} = \frac{13}{6} = 2\frac{1}{6}$$

## Toolbox

Whenever helping your student with fractions, it's always important to use images and other visual representations.

Remember, when working with fractions, you can only add and subtract parts that refer to the same size whole.