Fair Share Plates

Sharing It Out

Twenty cookies, five kids. Daniela's niece doesn't count a thing. She just starts around the table, one cookie to each kid, then around again, and again, the way you'd deal out a deck of cards.

When the tray is empty, every kid is holding the very same little stack, four cookies each, and not a single one can argue. Fair is fair.

How to play

1. Count out twenty small things, like cereal or coins. No snacks on hand? Your child can draw dots instead.
2. Deal them onto the five plates on the next page, one at a time, until all twenty are gone.
3. Point to a single plate and ask, "How many does this one get?"

Watch for

The most common slip is answering the wrong question. A child deals out twenty dots onto five plates and then answers "five," because five is the number they can see. But five is how many plates there are. The answer is how many ended up on each one.

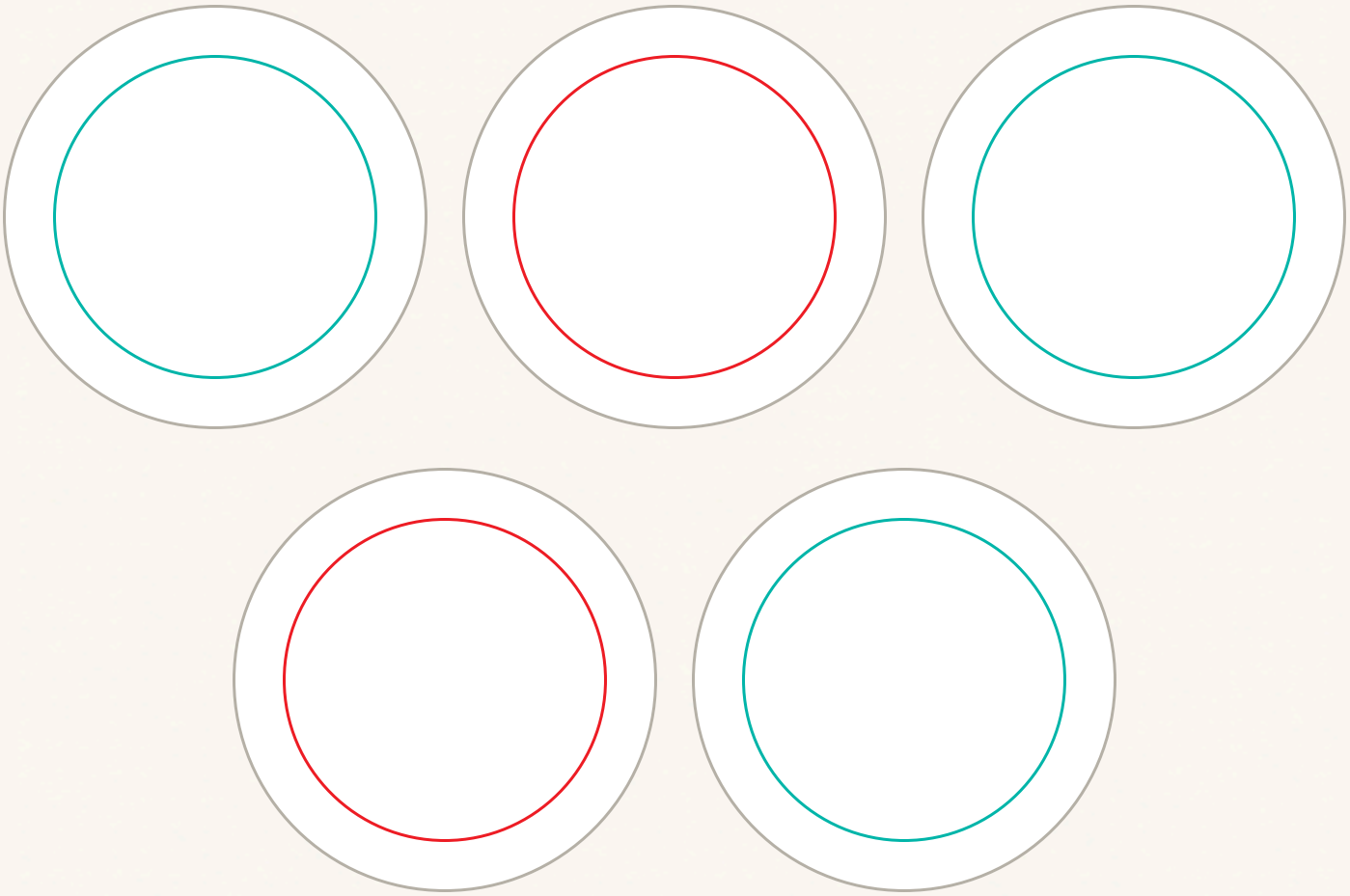
On the worksheet

Just as the × in multiplication can be said as "groups of," the ÷ in 20 ÷ 5 can be said as "twenty shared among five."

Division

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Share 20 among 5 plates. Each plate gets _____. 20 ÷ 5 = _____

Try it again with 10, 15, or 25.

Share _____ among 5 plates. Each plate gets _____. _____ ÷ 5 = _____

Share _____ among 5 plates. Each plate gets _____. _____ ÷ 5 = _____