

5th grade Math Moments For Families

Unit 2

Students will:

Dear family,

Your child is learning about dividing decimals. Here are some examples and steps to assist you in helping your child.

Vocabulary:

Dividend = the number to be divided; this is 0.8 in the problem below

Quotient = the answer to the division problem, number 4 in the problem below

Divisor = The quantity by which another quantity (the dividend) is to be divided

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{divisor} \rightarrow 0.2 \quad \left| \quad 0.8 \leftarrow \text{dividend} \right. \\ \hline 4 \leftarrow \text{quotient} \end{array}$$

Strategies to help your child with homework:

divisor

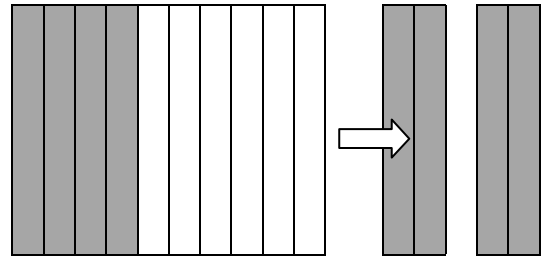
$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ 0.2 \overline{) 0.8} \end{array}$$

When you divide a decimal by a decimal, you move the decimal to the right to make it a whole number. If you move it once in the divisor, then you must move it once in the dividend. We call this using swoops or scoops. After you swoop, bump up the decimal to the quotient.

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ .02 \overline{) .08} \end{array}$$

Count the times you swooped in the divisor, and then swoop the same amount in the dividend.

The model/picture below represents tenths. Students recognize these as rods. To solve the problem, students count how many tenths are shaded. They see that it is 0.4 (4 tenths). This is divided by 0.2 (2 tenths) because there are 2 rods in each group.



Which number sentence is shown by the model above?

- A. $0.4 \div 0.2 = 0.02$
- B. $0.4 \div 0.2 = 0.2$
- C. $0.4 \div 0.2 = 4$
- D. $0.4 \div 0.2 = 2$

The answer is D because when you divide a decimal by a decimal, you get a whole number (which is the number of groups).