$\frac{1}{10} = \frac{10}{100}$ $\frac{1}{10} = \frac{10}{100}$ $\frac{1}{10} = \frac{10}{100}$

The Hidden World of Edible Insects

Comparing Fractions



Molly Bibbo

For teachers' inspection ONLY

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Are You Going to Eat That?

Imagine you are sitting at a table ready to enjoy a delicious dinner. The smell of food makes your stomach rumble. You can feel the heat coming off the plate. You pick up your fork. Carefully, you scoop the perfect bite. You slowly bring your fork to your mouth, ready for the first taste. As you take a closer look, you see little worms staring back at you. What do you do? Well, your reaction might not be the same as the person sitting next to you.

All over the world, people are eating certain bugs and **insects**. In fact, two billion people eat insects as part of their normal diet. In some places, insects are considered a dining **delicacy**. There are over 1,900 species of insects that are **edible**. The most common bugs that are eaten are beetles, caterpillars, bees, wasps, and ants. Some insects are raised on farms where they are cleaned, cooked, and prepared for packaging. Then, they are ready to be enjoyed as a tasty treat!



edible mealworms

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These fried scorpions are sold at street fairs in China.

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Pests or Snacks?

People in different countries view insects in different ways. Some people think insects are pests, while others consider insects a snack or even a meal. The practice of eating insects, or **entomophagy**, is not new. People have been eating bugs for thousands of years.

For many years, and in many countries, people have found ways to make great tasting food with different types of bugs. Bugs can be made to taste sweet, salty, and even very spicy. Bees, beetles, spiders, and scorpions are just some of the critters that can make a delicious snack. How does a bowl of grasshoppers sound? How about fried worms? Well, don't knock them until you try them. More and more people are including insects in their daily diets. From Mexico to China, people are snacking on these crunchy insect treats.



fried bamboo worms with a chocolate-covered wafer bar

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Let's Explore Math

Mr. Ly surveys his fourth-grade students. He asks his class, "Would you eat a bug?" The results show that $\frac{1}{2}$ of his students would. Mr. Ly wants to rename the results two ways. Draw area models to show two fractions that are equivalent to $\frac{1}{2}$.



$\frac{1}{2}$ = $\frac{\square}{\square}$ = $\frac{\square}{\square}$

grasshoppers



fried silk worms

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Treats from Thailand

A common snack in Thailand is called *Jing Leed*, also known as deep-fried crickets. These crunchy critters are cooked the same way as french fries. They are served with a salty sauce and sprinkled with white pepper.

People in Thailand also like to snack on silk worms. Silk worms are also fried, which makes them crunchy on the outside. The inside is a little softer, like mashed potatoes. But, when eating a silk worm, you don't bite it. Instead, you swallow it whole!

In Thailand, people can buy these delicious treats from vendors pushing carts on the street. All they have to do is choose the bugs they want to try and the size of the bag they want to buy. So, are you ready to swap a bag of your favorite potato chips for some crispy crickets or salty silk worms?

LET'S EXPLORE MATH

Imagine that you buy a bag of silk worms that weighs $\frac{1}{3}$ pound. How can this fraction be renamed as an equivalent fraction in sixths? Draw and label the number lines to show your solution.

