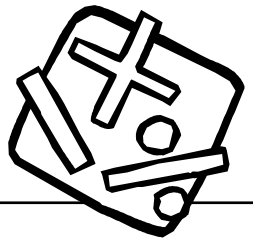
Snack Attack



Divide the animal crackers for a different number of people each time.

What you need

Animal cracker shaped cutouts (optional—can be simple shapes or circles)
Play plates or little paper cutout plates (enough for 6 for each player)
One die
Box or bag to keep about 50 to 100 "crackers" for the grab bag
Score sheet for the optional extension

What to do

1. Pretend you are in charge of snack time.
2. Grab a handful of pretend animal crackers.
3. Roll the dice to see how many people will receive the snack.
4. Put a plate down for each person.
5. Divide up the crackers fairly so that each child gets the same amount.
6. The leftovers are yours!
7. Then it is the next player's turn.
8. Keep playing until there are no crackers left in the box.
9. Each person counts up their pile of "leftovers" and the person with the most wins!

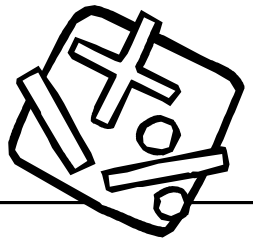
What to ask

- How did you divide up your crackers?
- Can you begin by passing out more than one at a time?
- Before you pass out the crackers, can you find out if there will be leftovers?
- Which numbers are less likely to have a leftover?
- Which number will never have a leftover?

Did you know?

Often young children deal with leftovers when dividing up quantities in real life situations. In fact, even adults are surprised when they divide up an amount of something and the division comes out exactly right. This activity builds on the natural experience of "leftovers" which are often called remainders in formal mathematics terms.

The Children's Museum of Houston



What's next?

- Keep track of the number of crackers grabbed, the number of children who share the crackers and the number of leftovers.
- Can you predict which number of crackers and which number of sharers will have the least/most leftovers?
- Play this game so the person with the least amount of leftovers wins.
- How does this change the game?

To learn more

The Doorbell Rang

by Pat Hutchins

Ma has made a dozen delicious cookies. It should be plenty for her two children. But then the doorbell rings—and rings and rings. Each ring of the doorbell brings more friends to share the delicious cookies Ma has made.

One Hundred Hungry Ants

by Bonnie MacKain

One hundred hungry ants head towards a picnic to get yummies for their tummies, but stops to change their line formation, showing different divisions of one hundred, cause them to lose both time and food in the end.

How it helps with school

Texas Prekindergarten Curriculum Guidelines

Number and Operations,

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) Standards

Number, Operation, and Quantitative Reasoning: K.1A-C; 1.1A,B; 2.1, 2.2B
Underlying Processes and Mathematical Tools: K.14A, K.15; 1.12A, 1.13; 2.13A, 2.14

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Standards

Number and Operations, Problem solving, Communication

Activity Inspired by: Teaching Children Mathematics (January 2003), "Snack Math: Young Children Explore Division" by Sally K. Roberts pp.258- 261.

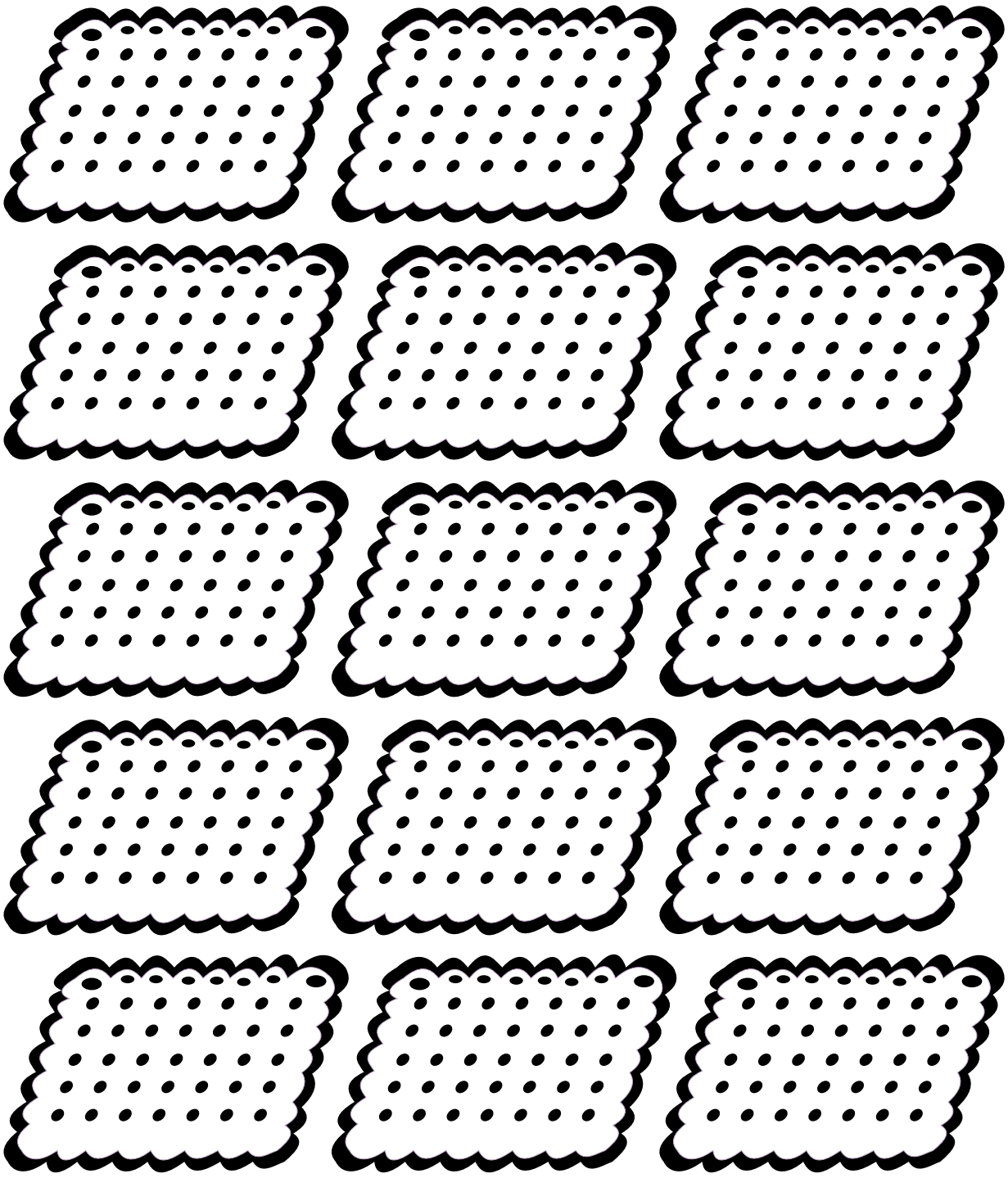
Snack Attack

Number of Grabbed Crackers	Number of Sharers (number on die)	Number of Leftover Crackers

The Children's Museum of Houston

ExxonMobil Math Path EMM³ Magnificent Math Moments

Snack Attack



The Children's Museum of Houston

ExxonMobil Math Path EM M³ Magnificent Math Moments