

Division Is Sharing

3rd Grade

Two ways to read a division, and why both give the same answer.

SHARING

- $12 \div 3 =$ share 12 between 3
- How many does each one get?
- Deal them out one at a time
- 3 plates, 12 biscuits $\rightarrow$ 4 each
- You know the number of groups

GROUPING

- $12 \div 3 =$ how many 3s in 12?
- How many groups can you make?
- Keep taking 3 away until none left
- Bags of 3 from 12 $\rightarrow$ 4 bags
- You know the size of each group

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Both give 4. Which story you tell depends on whether you know the number of groups or the size of them.

Every division is a multiplication in disguise: $12 \div 3 = 4$ because $4 \times 3 = 12$.