Finding a Unit Fraction of an Amount Using a Bar Model
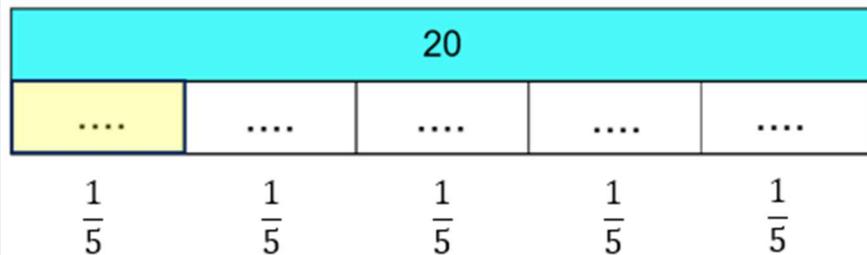
A fraction shows you how many parts of a whole there are. Finding a fraction of an amount tells you the value of that part.

To find a unit fraction of an amount:

1. **Draw a bar:** This represents the amount.
2. **Draw a bar beneath it:** Split this bar into equal parts based on the fraction.
3. **Share counters or dots:** Place the total amount evenly across all parts.
4. **Shade one part:** This shows the unit fraction (just one part).
5. **Count the dots in the shaded part:** This is your answer.
6. **Did you notice:** Finding a unit fraction of an amount is the same as dividing by the denominator.

Example: What is $\frac{1}{5}$ of 20?

20				
....	....	....	....	....

$$\frac{1}{5} \qquad \frac{1}{5} \qquad \frac{1}{5} \qquad \frac{1}{5} \qquad \frac{1}{5}$$

$$20 \div 5 = 20$$

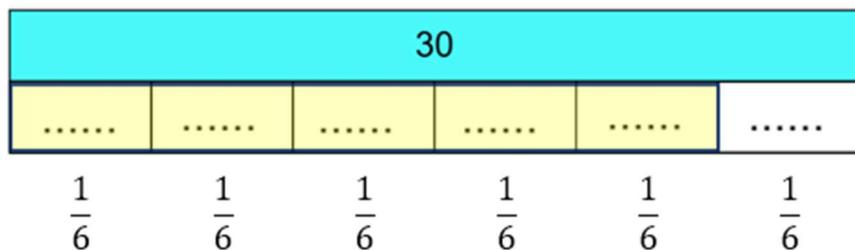# Finding a Non-Unit Fraction of an Amount Using a Bar Model

A fraction shows you how many parts of a whole there are. Finding a fraction of an amount tells you the value of that part.

To find a unit fraction of an amount:

1. **Draw a bar:** This represents the amount.

2. **Draw a bar beneath it:** Split this bar into equal parts based on the fraction.

3. **Share counters or dots:** Place the total amount evenly across all parts.

4. **Shade the parts:** Shade the number of parts you are interested in based on the numerator.

5. **Count the dots in the shaded parts:** This is your answer.

6. **Did you notice:** Finding a non-unit fraction is the same as division followed by multiplication?

Images made using the free virtual manipulatives available at MathsBot.com

Example: What is $\frac{5}{6}$ of 30?

30

......	......	......	......	......	......
$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{6}$

$$30 \div 6 = 5$$
$$5 \times 5 = 25$$

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