

THE GIANT INCH

Using a blow up of an inch on a standard ruler is a great way to teach equivalent fractions and measurement at the same time. Have each student make his/her own "giant inch" then use it to refer to doing fraction or ruler work. Allow the students to use it as a tool until they feel comfortable with the concepts involved. Follow this lesson with more work on equivalent fractions and with work on drawing and measuring lines of various lengths.

First, have students draw an 8" line with a ruler making a small dot each 1/2" on the line. Model the same on the overhead or chalkboard.

Next, have them find the center dot, extend it to a longer line and write 1/2 below the line.

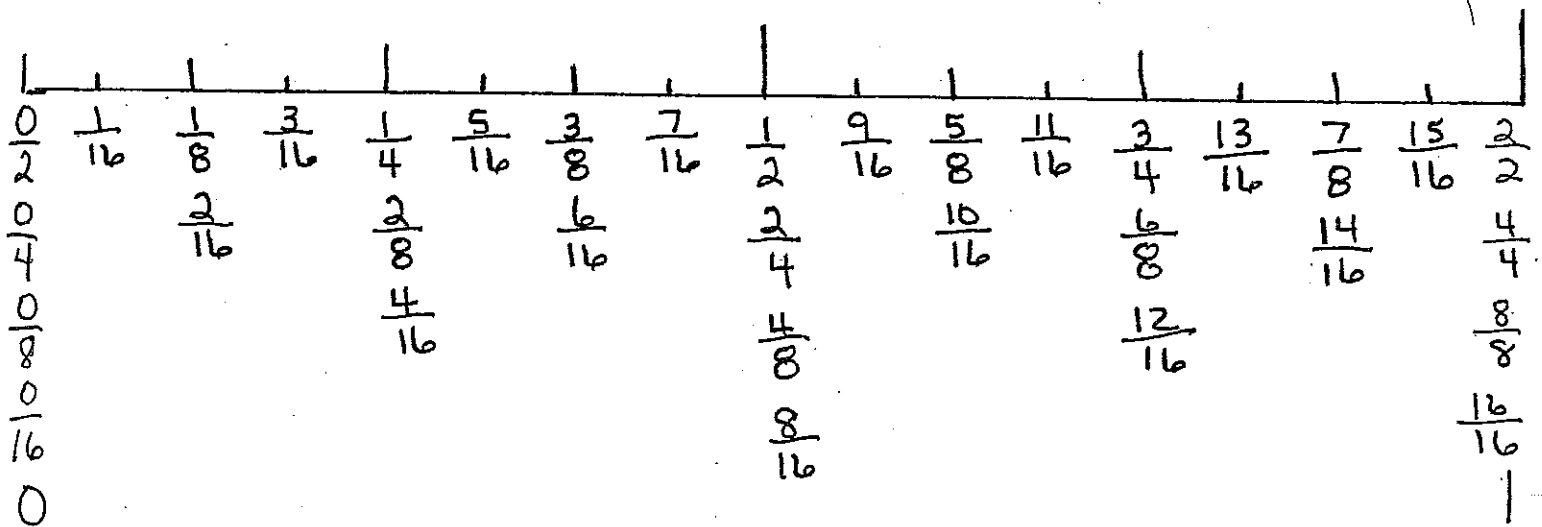
Third, have them find the dots that divide the "giant inch" into four equal parts, extend the dots to form lines (like on a ruler) and write 1/4 below the first line, 2/4 below the 1/2 and 3/4 below the third line. Discuss why you may write these fractions. Ask why the 1/2 has a 2/4 below it.

Fourth, have students find the dots that divide the "giant inch" into 8 equal pieces. Follow the same procedure as for fourths, but have students count aloud, "1/8, 2/8, 3/8," etc. as each points to that point on their inch. Be sure to discuss the various names for some points and the equivalent fractions involved..

Fifth, do the same as above with sixteenths. Keeping columns straight and neat helps support the idea of equivalent fractions.

When the "giant inches" are done give measurements for students to indicate by putting one thumb nail at 0 and the other at the measurement given. Walk around the room checking thumb placements.

Have students find the same measurement mark on their real rulers. Have them draw lines of various lengths using the "giant inch" as needed individually.



Use a different color for every denominator.