multiplying fractions and whole numbers
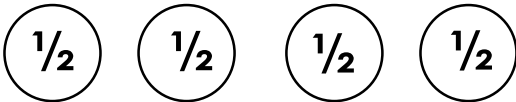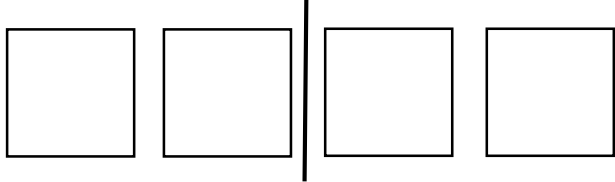
Whole Number Multiplied by a Fraction	Fraction Multiplied by a Whole Number
4 x ½ =	**½ x 4 =**
A baker has four slabs of chocolate fudge to sell. Each slab weighs ½ of a pound. Determine the total weight of the four slabs.	A baker has four pounds of chocolate fudge. He sells ½ of the fudge to a customer. How many pounds did he sell to the customer?
½ ½ ½ ½ **½ + ½ + ½ + ½ = 4 x ½ = 2 pounds of fudge**	**½ of 4 = ½ x 4 = 2 pounds of fudge**
This problem involves **equal groups**. The baker has four equal groups of ½. The groups are the slabs of fudge. Each slab weighs ½ of a pound, so ½ is the amount or size of each group. The problem is asking for the total weight, so you multiply the number of slabs (4) by the weight of each slab (1/2). **Four groups of ½ = 4 x ½**	This problem is taking **part of a whole number**. The whole number is the amount of fudge the baker has and the part that is being taken is the ½ of the fudge that the customer bought. The problem is asking for the fractional part of the amount, so you multiply the part taken (1/2) by the beginning amount (4). **½ of 4 = ½ x 4**

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