Using Partial Quotients

Let's divide whole numbers.

10.1 Notice and Wonder: Kiran's Calculations

Here are Kiran's calculations for finding $657 \div 3$:

$$600 \div 3 = 200$$
$$30 \div 3 = 10$$
$$27 \div 3 = 9$$
$$657 \div 3 = 219$$

What do you notice? What do you wonder?

CC BY NC Illustrative Mathematics, based on IM 6–8 Math, CC BY Open Up Resources.

10.2 Using Partial Quotients to Calculate Quotients

1. Andre calculated $657 \div 3$ using a method that was different from Kiran's.

He started by writing the dividend (657) and the divisor (3).

$$3 \overline{)\,6\,5\,7}$$

Next, he subtracted 3 groups of different amounts from 657, starting with 3 groups of 200 . . .

$$\begin{array}{r} 2\,0\,0 \\ 3 \overline{)\,6\,5\,7} \\ -\,6\,0\,0 \\ \hline 5\,7 \end{array}$$

. . . then 3 groups of 10, and then 3 groups of 9.

$$\begin{array}{r} \,9 \\ \,1\,0 \\ 2\,0\,0 \\ 3 \overline{)\,6\,5\,7} \\ -\,6\,0\,0 \\ \hline 5\,7 \\ -\,3\,0 \\ \hline 2\,7 \\ -\,2\,7 \\ \hline 0 \end{array}$$

Andre calculated 200 + 10 + 9, and wrote 219.

$$\begin{array}{r} \boxed{2\,1\,9} \\ \,9 \\ \,1\,0 \\ 2\,0\,0 \\ 3 \overline{)\,6\,5\,7} \\ -\,6\,0\,0 \\ \hline 5\,7 \\ -\,3\,0 \\ \hline 2\,7 \\ -\,2\,7 \\ \hline 0 \end{array}$$

a. Andre subtracted 600 from 657. What does the 600 represent?

b. Andre wrote 10 above the 200, and then subtracted 30 from 57. How is the 30 related to the 10?

c. What do the numbers 200, 10, and 9 represent?

d. What is the meaning of the 0 at the bottom of Andre's work?

2. How might Andre calculate $896 \div 4$? Explain or show your reasoning.

10.3 What's the Quotient?

Find the value of each quotient. Show your reasoning. Use vertical calculations at least once.

1. $1{,}332 \div 9$

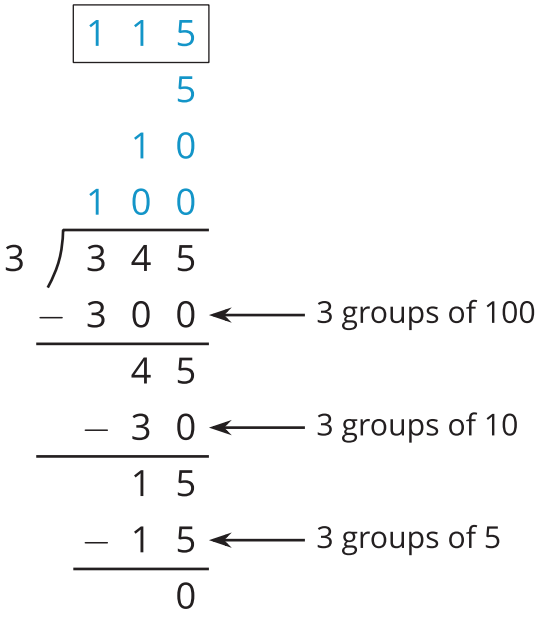
2. $1{,}115 \div 5$

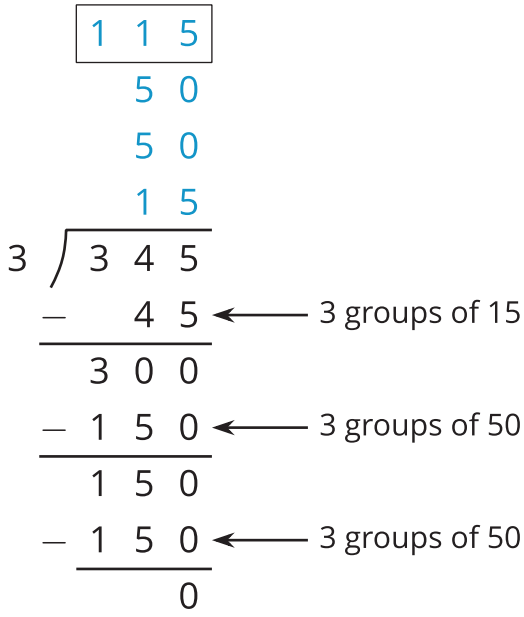
3. $432 \div 16$

Lesson 10 Summary

Another way to find the quotient of $345 \div 3$ is by using partial quotients, in which we keep subtracting 3 groups of some amount from 345. We can organize the steps and record the partial quotients in a vertical calculation.

Here are two calculations for finding $345 \div 3$:





- In the calculation on the left, first we subtract 3 groups of 100, then 3 groups of 10, and then 3 groups of 5. Adding up the partial quotients ($100 + 10 + 5$) gives us 115.
- The calculation on the right shows a different amount per group subtracted each time (3 groups of 15, 3 groups of 50, and 3 more groups of 50), but the total amount in each of the 3 groups is still 115.

There are other ways of calculating $345 \div 3$ using partial quotients. We can calculate with fewer steps by removing groups of larger sizes.