

**CONCEPT** Fractions are used every day in so many ways that it's important to develop a solid foundation and understand them well. When you go out to dinner with friends and are all on the same bill, the only way to figure out how much each of you owe is to divide up the bill using fractions.

## BACKGROUND

The ancient Egyptians used fractions in 1800 B.C., but not in the way we do today. It was in the 1700s that Europe began using fractions to compare whole numbers to each other.

## REAL WORLD CONNECTIONS

Fractions are used in many everyday applications, including:

**COOKING:** recipes often require ingredients to be measured in fractions of a cup, such as  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup or  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup.

**CONSTRUCTION:** plans for buildings and other structures are often drawn to scale using fractions.

**RETAIL:** prices for goods are often given in decimals or fractions, such as \$4.99 or  $\frac{1}{2}$  off.

**SPORTS:** statistics in sports are often given as fractions or decimals, such as a player's batting average or a team's win-loss record.

**ART:** fractions are used in art to express dimensions and proportions, such as the size of a canvas or the composition of a photograph.

