

Smarter Balanced Assessment Item Illustrating 5.NF.B.7c

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Mr. Diaz bought a board that was 12 feet long. He cut the entire board into pieces that were each $\frac{1}{3}$ foot long. How many pieces did Mr. Diaz have?

Answer Key

36

Elaboration on Alignment

This item shows a straightforward application problem aligned to the standard. The concept of division by a fraction can be a difficult one for students, but word problems can help students overcome the often puzzling result that 12 divided by $\frac{1}{3}$ produces a quotient larger than 12. These kinds of problems help students to visualize that each foot of the board is being cut into 3 pieces and there are 12 feet total so this results in 36 pieces. In the classroom, physical objects can be used to model division by a fraction.

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