

Smarter Balanced Assessment Item Illustrating 6.NS.A.1

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A recipe requires $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of flour for every batch of cookies. How many full batches of cookies can be made with $5\frac{1}{2}$ cups of flour?

Answer Key

11

Elaboration on Alignment

This item is a small uptick from the expectations of 5.NF.B.7 where problems involved division of a whole number by a unit fraction. While still using a unit fraction, this problem uses a non-whole number for the number of cups of flour, which makes it solidly aligned to standard 6.NS.A.1 ("...solve word problems involving division of fractions by fractions..."). The real-world context provides students with multiple avenues to approach the problem even if they don't recognize it as a division problem right away, such as recognizing that each whole cup makes 2 batches of cookies so 5 cups would allow for 10 batches and the remaining $\frac{1}{2}$ cup means that 11 total batches could be made. The "friendly numbers" here allow students to draw on their work in the RP domain to solve the problem or to solve it more traditionally using multiplication ($\frac{1}{2} * ? = 5\frac{1}{2}$) or division.

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