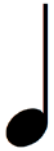
Numeracy Across the Curriculum

MUSIC

Equivalent fractions

In music each different type of note is worth a different fraction of a whole beat. Depending on which notes you use you get different rhythms in your music. Composers are able to match different rhythms by working out which combinations of notes are equivalent to each other.

Symbol							
Name	Semibreve	Minim	Crotchet	Quaver	Semiquaver	Demi-semi-quaver	Hemi-demi-semi-quaver
Fraction of a beat	**1**	**$\frac{1}{2}$**	**$\frac{1}{4}$**	**$\frac{1}{8}$**	$\frac{1}{16}$	$\frac{1}{32}$	$\frac{1}{64}$

Now think about rhythm using equivalent fractions…

$\frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{4} = 2 \times \frac{1}{4}$ so  lasts for the same time as 

Also $\frac{1}{4} = \frac{4}{16} = 4 \times \frac{1}{16}$ so  lasts for the same time as 

Using equivalent fractions can you work out which other combinations of notes last the same time?