Finding fractions of amounts

Cut or colour five sixths of the circle. Demonstrate how to start by dividing the circle into sixths, and then cut or colour five of the sixths.

Repeat with other fractions (e.g. seven tenths). When the children are confident, use a number instead of a shape.

To find five sixths of 54, start by dividing 54 into sixths: $54 \div 6 = 9$, so each sixth is worth 9 and we want five of them. Since $9 \times 5 = 45$, five sixths of 54 is 45.

Work through lots of examples together until the children understand the process. Introduce the chant: 'Divide by the bottom and times by the top!'. This is a good process aid to use once the children fully understand what is happening in the calculation.