Lesson 4: Problem solving – adding and subtracting fractions (I)

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1 a) $3 - \frac{5}{7} = 2\frac{7}{7} - \frac{5}{7} = 2\frac{2}{7}$

There is $2\frac{2}{7}$ kg of flour left in the cupboard.

b) $\frac{5}{7} + \frac{6}{7} = \frac{11}{7}$ Tulpesh uses $1\frac{4}{7}$ kg of flour.

c) $2\frac{2}{7}$ kg of flour is used in total.

2. The farmer ploughed $1\frac{2}{7}$ acres of his field in total.

3. $\frac{9}{17}$ of the juice is remaining.

4. There are many possible ways; for example: $\frac{3}{8} + \frac{9}{8} - \frac{5}{8} = \frac{7}{8}$

5. $\frac{4}{7}$ kg of strawberries were left.

Reflect

Many different answers are possible. Encourage children to demonstrate an understanding of adding or subtracting fractions using common denominators. They should be able to fluently convert whole numbers to fractions and vice versa as necessary.