Math 9 – Unit 1: Real Numbers Name: _____

Lesson #2: Multiplying and Dividing Fractions Date: _____

Learning Goal: We are learning to multiply and divide fractions.

Much of Mathematics is learning the rules. These next few lessons have rules. Follow them and you will succeed.

Multiplying Fractions:

The process to multiplying fractions is straight-forward:

1. Multiply the numerators together
2. Multiply the denominators together
3. Reduce to lowest terms.

Examples:

a) $\frac{2}{3}\times\frac{4}{5}$ b) $\frac{-8}{5}\times\frac{15}{4}$ c) $\frac{-4}{3}\times\frac{2}{7}\times\frac{-5}{3}$

Typically, the hardest part is reducing. There is another way to approach multiplying fractions. First reduce ANY numerator with ANY denominator (this is sometimes called cross reducing). Let's look at example two again, but this time reduce first.

$\frac{-8}{5}\times\frac{15}{4}$ Another! $\frac{6}{7}\times\frac{21}{12}$

An big one! $\frac{7}{5}\times\frac{8}{3}\times\frac{9}{14}\times\frac{25}{4}$

NOTE: You may reduce first or last, it does not matter, but you must always reduce

Dividing Fractions:

The process to dividing has one extra step done BEFORE the multiplying steps. We need to change the division to a multiplication, so instead of dividing by a fraction, we multiply by the _____. This means to _____ the fraction to the _____ of the division sign. Once this is done, you now have a multiplication question and can follow the steps from above.

Examples:

a) $\frac{4}{5} \div \frac{3}{7}$

b) $\frac{9}{4} \div \frac{8}{3}$ (note: you may be tempted to reduce, but not yet!)

c) $\frac{6}{11} \div \frac{-3}{2}$

d) $\frac{5}{9} \div \frac{6}{7} \div \frac{12}{14}$

Application: A chemist is measuring the acid needed for an experiment. If she has $2\frac{1}{5}$ cylinders (or $\frac{11}{5}$) and she needs $\frac{1}{10}$ of a cylinder for each experiment, how many experiments can she do?

Success Criteria:

- I can multiply fractions by reducing before OR after multiplying
- I can divide fractions by multiplying by the reciprocal of the divisor