

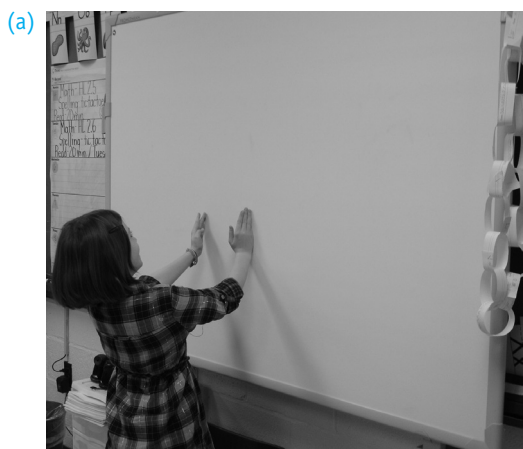
## ACTIVITY IA11.7: One-third of a Circle

Although the recommended method of introducing fractions starts with a focus on linear models, at some stage students will need to partition circular regions. The following activity is a simple yet effective way to allow students to partition a circular region into three equal parts.

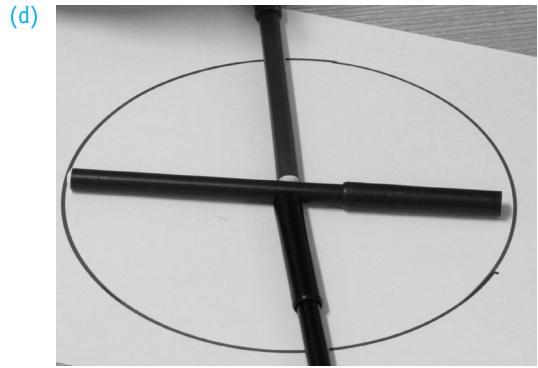
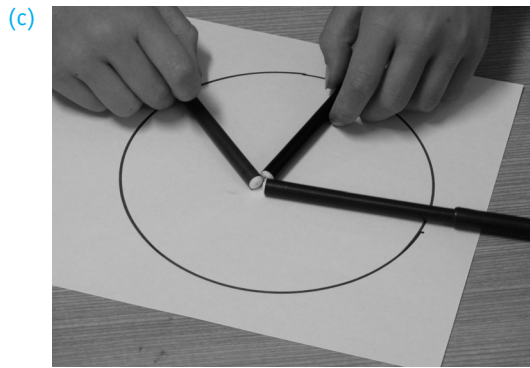
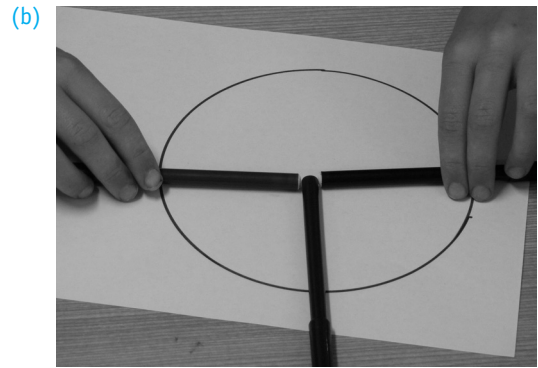
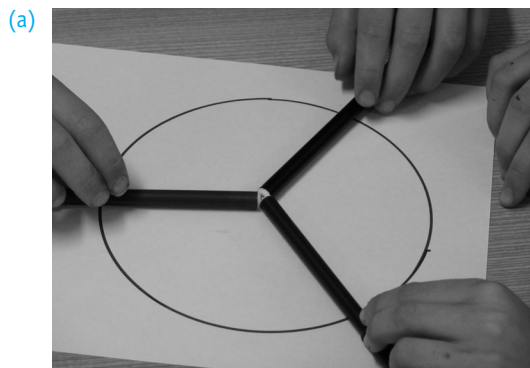
**Intended learning:** To use drawings to record partitioning and distribution strategies.

**Description:** Ask your students to draw a circle on a sheet of paper using a plate or lid as a template and to imagine that it is the top view of a round cake. *I want you to work out where we would cut the cake to have three equal slices with none left over. Use pencils or popsticks to work out where the cuts would go before you draw them.*

Observe the sequence of approximations that students use in developing the idea of dividing a circle into three equal parts.



**Photo 11.2 a & b** Time series of locating three-eighths of the length of the whiteboard



**Photo 11.3 a, b, c & d** Four shots of dividing a circle into thirds