

 **Activity 8.1 FINDING FACTORS**

Start by having students think about a context that involves arrays, such as parade formations, seats in a classroom, or patches of a quilt. Then, assign a number that has several factors—for example, 12, 18, 24, 30, or 36. Have students find as many arrays (perhaps made from square tiles or cubes or drawn on grid paper) and corresponding multiplication expressions as possible for their assigned number. (Students can also use counters and attempt to find a way to separate the counters into equal subsets.) For students with physical disabilities who may have limited motor skills to manipulate the materials, this activity is available as an interactive applet at <http://illuminations.nctm.org/ActivityDetail.aspx?id=64>.

From Van de Walle et. al. (2014). *Teaching Student-Centered Mathematics Grades: Developmentally Appropriate Instruction for Grades 3 – 5 (2nd Ed.)*. Toronto: Pearson Education, Inc. (p. 115).