Croft's cows

Annotation

Marco solves this fraction problem using known multiplication facts. In explaining his thinking he demonstrates his understanding of the relationship between multiplication, division and fractions.

Problem: Croft's cows

The teacher shows this problem to the student and reads it with him as required:

Farmer Croft is shifting 125 dairy cows to another paddock. 25 of them have already gone through the gate. What fraction is this of his herd?

Student response

Marco:	It's one fifth.
Teacher:	Tell me how you did that.
Marco:	Well I thought 10 x 10 is 100 and I know that's like 5 times 20. And there's 25 more to make 125. Straight way I knew that's 5 times 5. So I can see that the five twenties and the five fives is 5 lots of 25, making 125. So another way to say that is that 25 is one fifth of 125.
Teacher:	What do you know that helped you?
Marco:	Well I just know my tables and I know that something in five equal parts is the same as saying it's in fifths.