Contents

Foreword v

Preface vii

Introduction 1

Why Multiplication and Division 1
Understanding Multiplication and Division 2
Big Ideas and Essential Understandings 3
Benefits for Teaching, Learning, and Assessing 4
Ready to Begin 5

Chapter 1 7
Multiplication and Division: The Big Ideas and Essential Understandings

Multiplication Is a Powerful Tool: Big Idea 1 10
Multiplication as a scalar operation 10
Reasoning about situations and representations 12
Representing situations with multiplication and division 14
Moving beyond operations on whole numbers 19
Relating division and multiplication 23
Using numbers in division situations 24
Properties Underlie Computational Procedures: Big Idea 2 28
Using properties for justification and flexibility 28
Identifying properties of division 35
Avoiding ambiguity through order of operations 38
Using properties to justify algorithms 40
Conclusion 50

Chapter 2 51
Connections: Looking Back and Ahead in Learning

Multiplication as a Fundamental Operation 51
Place value and addition 51
Division and subtraction 52
Skip counting 52
Divisibility and prime factorization 55
Percent 57
Ratio tables 58
Similarity 59
Properties and Algorithms 60
Operations and their properties 60
Exponents 62
Conclusion 62

Chapter 3 65
Challenges: Learning, Teaching, and Assessing

Teaching for Robust Understanding 67
Beginning with a word problem 68
Using carefully selected computations 69
Working with an area model 70
Looking—and Listening—for Understanding 70
Hallmarks of Teaching with Understanding 71
Explaining novel procedures 72
Using worthwhile tasks 73
Using appropriate language and definitions 75
Making Time to Foster Understanding 76
Embedding Assessment in Instruction 79
Conclusion 81

References 83