One part of each shape is shaded.
Two balls are circled.
Five apples are circled.
Two birds are circled.

Left to right: $\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}$
James is correct. As the denominator gets bigger, the shape is split into more equal parts and therefore the parts become smaller.

If half of the number of counters is 12 , this means that there are 24 counters in total, because 2 lots of 12 make 24.
$\frac{1}{3}$ of $24=8$
$\frac{1}{4}$ of $24=6$

