



# KIRF Target 32 - I can write fractions in their simplest form.

To simplify a fraction, you need to find the highest common factor of the numerator and the denominator. For example, 8/20—the highest common factor of 8 and 20 is 4.

You then need to divide the numerator and denominator by 4. This would give us 2/5.

Some people like to just keep halving the numbers, but be warned - this does not always work!

Original Fraction

$$\frac{8}{12}$$



Not yet!

$$\frac{4}{6}$$



Simplest form

$$\frac{2}{3}$$



## Method One

Try to **exactly divide** (only whole number answers) both the top and bottom of the fraction by 2, 3, 5, 7, ... etc, until we can't go any further.

$$\frac{24}{108} \xrightarrow{\div 2} \frac{12}{54} \xrightarrow{\div 2} \frac{6}{27} \xrightarrow{\div 3} \frac{2}{9}$$

## Method Two

Divide both the top and bottom of the fraction by the highest common factor of the numerator and denominator.

Example:

The largest number that goes exactly into both 8 and 12 is 4, so the Greatest Common Factor is 4.

Divide both top and bottom by 4:

$$\frac{8}{12} \xrightarrow{\div 4} \frac{2}{3}$$

## How can my parents help at home?

Knowing your times tables up to 12x12 is essential for simplifying fractions. If you are struggling with this it might be worth practising your times tables alongside this work.

There will be activities related to this key fact uploaded onto the Maths page on the school website. These will include worksheets and websites. Try doing some of these at home.

## Vocabulary

4

The **numerator** is 4.

6

The **denominator** is 6.

This fraction's **simplest form** is 2/3.

2/3 is **equivalent** to 4/6 and 6/9