

Simplifying Fractions

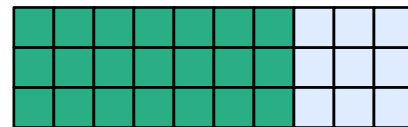
To **simplify** a fraction, we look for common factors in the numerator and denominator to cancel the fraction down to its simplest form. Remember that the numerator and denominator are always whole numbers.

 **Example**

Simplify $\frac{21}{30}$

3 is a common factor of 21 and 30,
so divide the numerator and
denominator by 3

$$\frac{21}{30} \div \frac{\div 3}{\div 3} = \frac{7}{10}$$



=



 **Example**

Simplify $\frac{12}{20}$

Look for the **highest common factor**.
Here, 2 is a factor but 4 is the HCF,
so we divide by 4. This ensures our
answer is fully simplified.

$$\frac{12}{20} \div \frac{\div 4}{\div 4} = \frac{3}{5}$$