Simplifying Fractions to Lowest Terms

Find the highest common factor, then reduce each fraction fully.

Name _____ Date _____

How to: Find the HCF (highest common factor) of the numerator and denominator. Divide both by the HCF and write the fraction in its simplest form. Show the HCF you used.

A. Simplify each fraction

Write the HCF and the fraction in lowest terms.

1 $\frac{18}{24}$ HCF _____ Lowest terms _____

2 $\frac{21}{35}$ HCF _____ Lowest terms _____

3 $\frac{32}{40}$ HCF _____ Lowest terms _____

4 $\frac{45}{60}$ HCF _____ Lowest terms _____

5 $\frac{28}{42}$ HCF _____ Lowest terms _____

6 $\frac{54}{72}$ HCF _____ Lowest terms _____

7 $\frac{36}{84}$ HCF _____ Lowest terms _____

8 $\frac{63}{81}$ HCF _____ Lowest terms _____

B. More to simplify

Take care to find the HCF.

9 $\frac{72}{96}$ HCF _____ Lowest terms _____

10 $\frac{88}{132}$ HCF _____ Lowest terms _____

11 $\frac{105}{140}$ HCF _____ Lowest terms _____

12 $\frac{126}{168}$ HCF _____ Lowest terms _____

13 $\frac{144}{216}$ HCF _____ Lowest terms _____

14 $\frac{154}{231}$ HCF _____ Lowest terms _____

C. Reason it out

15. A pupil says that dividing the numerator and denominator of **42/56** by 2 gives a fraction in lowest terms. Is the pupil correct? Explain how you know, then write **42/56** in its lowest terms.

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