RENAME TO LOWER TERMS



Created by Richard Rand http://www.visualfractions.com/



These fractions are the same size. The fraction on the right is in *lower terms* because both the numerator and denominator are smaller than the fraction on the left.



Notice that both the numerator and denominator in the fraction ${}^{21}/_{24}$ are divided by 3. Actually, you are dividing the fraction ${}^{21}/_{24}$ by ${}^{3}/_{3}$, a form of 1.



The picture shows that 8 and 16 are both divided by 2. A number that divides evenly into other numbers is called a *common factor* of the numbers. Two is a *common factor* of 8 and 16.



The numerator and denominator $\frac{8}{16}$ can also be divided by 8. Eight is the largest number that divides evenly into 8 and 16. 2, 4, and 8 are *common factors* of 8 an 16, but 8 is the *greatest common factor* of 8 and 16.



Dividing the numerator and denominator by the greatest common factor will rename the fraction to *lowest terms*. The fraction 1/2 is in *lowest terms* because no number larger than 1 will divide evenly into 1 and 2.



This picture shows the fraction ${}^{18}/{}_{30}$. The greatest common factor of 18 and 30 is 6. Divide both 18 and 30 by the greatest common factor 6 will rename ${}^{18}/{}_{30}$ in *lowest terms*.



What is $\frac{40}{48}$ in lowest terms? Think of the largest number that will divide evenly into both 40 and 48. Then divide by that number.



The greatest common factor of ${}^{40}/{}_{48}$ is 8. Divide both 40 and 48 by 8 and you arrive at ${}^{5}/{}_{6}$.

The fraction $\frac{40}{48}$ is $\frac{5}{6}$ in *lowest terms*.

Notice that $\frac{40}{48}$ and $\frac{5}{6}$ are the same size.