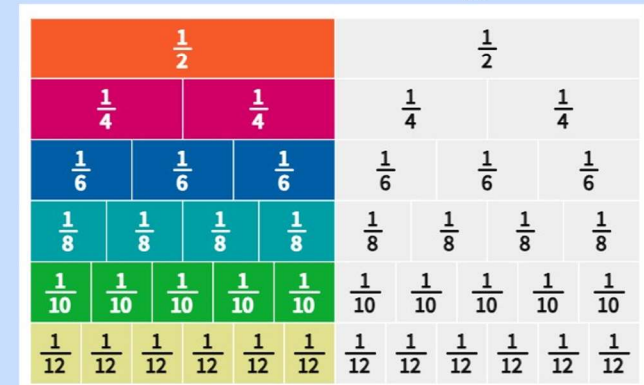# Simplifying Fractions

**Simplifying fractions** means making a fraction as small as possible without changing its value.

To simplify a fraction:

1. Use a fraction wall or a drawing to represent different fractions.

2. Locate the fraction on the fraction wall.

3. Draw a vertical line to the right of the fraction.

4. Any equivalent fractions will be aligned to this line.

5. The fraction with the smallest numerator and denominator will be the simplified fraction.

6. This is the same as division. When you divide the numerator and denominator by the highest common factor, the fraction will be simplified.

**Example:** Simplify $\frac{6}{12}$



$\div 6$

$$\frac{6}{12} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$\div 6$

**Factors of 6:** (1, **6**), (2, 3)

**Factors of 12:** (1, 12), (2, **6**), (3, 4)

HCF

Images made using the free virtual manipulatives available atPolypad, by Amplify.