

Subtracting Fractions with Unlike Denominators Worksheet - Answer Key

5th Grade - subtracting fractions with unlike denominators | 18 minutes

Subtract. Rewrite the fractions with a common denominator first, then subtract the numerators.

Example: $1/2 - 1/4$: rewrite $1/2$ as $2/4$, then $2/4 - 1/4 = 1/4$.

1. $1/2 - 1/4 =$

Answer: $1/4$

2. $2/3 - 1/6 =$

Answer: $3/6 = 1/2$

3. $3/4 - 1/2 =$

Answer: $1/4$

4. $5/6 - 1/3 =$

Answer: $3/6 = 1/2$

5. $1/2 - 1/3 =$

Answer: $1/6$

6. $7/8 - 1/4 =$

Answer: $5/8$

7. $3/4 - 1/3 =$

Answer: $5/12$

8. $4/5 - 1/2 =$

Answer: $3/10$

Challenge

9. A board is $3/4$ m long. You cut off $1/3$ m. How much is left?

Answer: $3/4 - 1/3 = 9/12 - 4/12 = 5/12$ m

10. Why must the denominators match before subtracting?

Answer: You can only subtract pieces of the same size; a common denominator makes them equal.