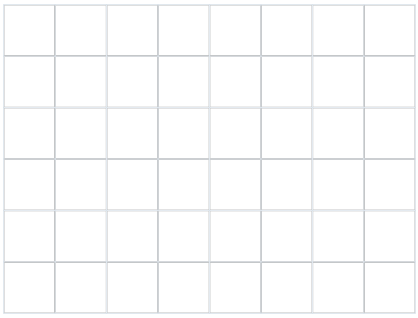
Year 5 - Subtracting Fractions with Different Denominators — Lesson Guide

Step 1

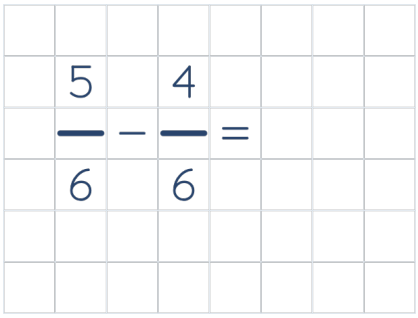
$\frac{5}{6} - \frac{2}{3} =$ ☐



First, we circle the minus sign so we know to subtract the fractions and find their difference.

Step 2

$\frac{5}{6} - \frac{2}{3} =$ ☐

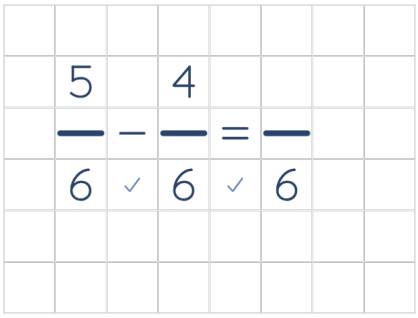


Remember: Change the numerator and denominator by the same factor to keep the value of the fraction.

First, we check whether either fraction can be simplified. Both fractions are already in their simplest form. 6 is a multiple of 3, so 6 is the smallest common denominator. To change 5/6 to denominator 3, we would also have to divide its numerator, 5, by 2. That would not give a whole number, so keep 6. Multiply the numerator and denominator of 2/3 by 2 to get 4/6. We write 5/6 – 4/6 on the grid.

Step 3

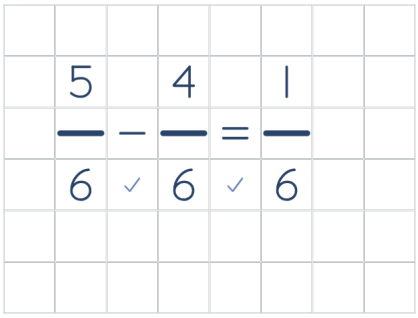
$\frac{5}{6} - \frac{2}{3} = \square$



Both denominators are 6, so the parts are the same size. We tick both denominators to show they match. Then, we draw the fraction line and write 6 underneath it.

Step 4

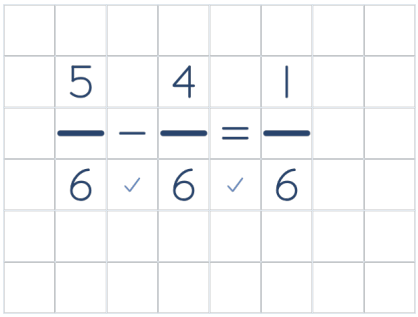
$\frac{5}{6} - \frac{2}{3} = \square$



Then, we subtract the numerators. 5 – 4 = 1. The denominator stays 6 because the parts are the same size. We write 1 above the fraction line.

Step 5

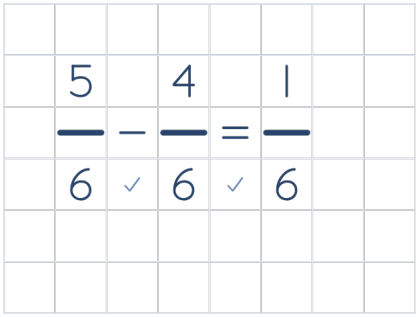
$\frac{5}{6} - \frac{2}{3} = \square$



The parts are the same size. Take 4 sixths away from 5 sixths to leave 1 sixth. Keep 6 as the denominator.

Step 6

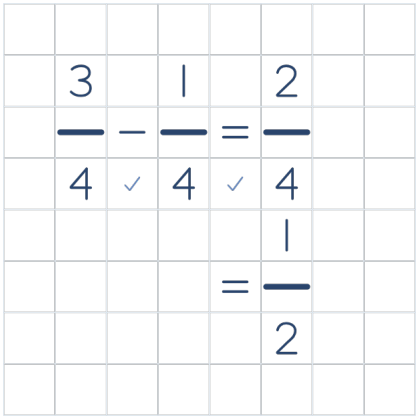
$\frac{5}{6} - \frac{2}{3} = \frac{1}{6}$



The difference is 1/6. Copy 1/6 into the answer box. Make sure you copy the answer correctly.

Step 7

$\frac{3}{4} - \frac{2}{8} = \frac{1}{2}$



The difference is 2/4. Divide its numerator and denominator by 2. 2/4 is equivalent to 1/2.