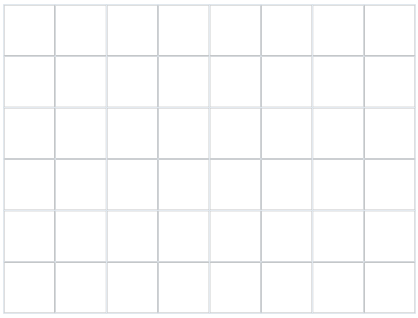
Year 6 - Adding Fractions with Different Denominators — Lesson Guide

Step 1

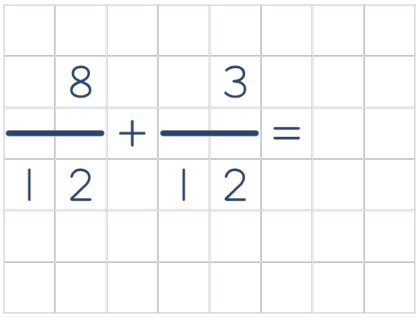
$\frac{4}{6} + \frac{2}{8} =$ ☐



First, we circle the plus sign so we know to add the fractions and find their sum.

Step 2

$\frac{4}{6} + \frac{2}{8} =$ ☐

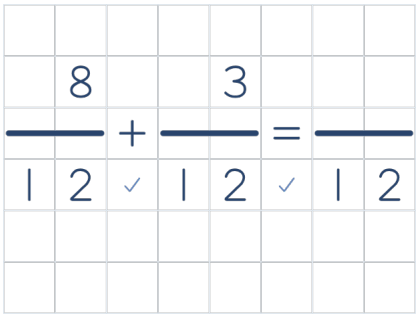


Remember: Change the numerator and denominator by the same factor to keep the value of the fraction.

First, we check whether either fraction can be simplified. Two thirds is equivalent to four sixths. Divide the numerator and denominator by 2 to make that change. One quarter is equivalent to two eighths. Divide the numerator and denominator by 2 to make that change. Start with the multiples of 4. 12 is the first one that is also a multiple of 3, so 12 is the smallest common denominator. Multiply the numerator and denominator of 2/3 by 4 to get 8/12. Multiply the numerator and denominator of 1/4 by 3 to get 3/12. We write 8/12 + 3/12 on the grid.

Step 3

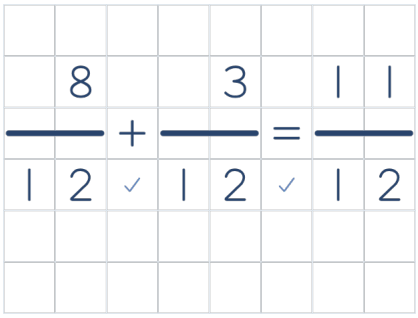
$\frac{4}{6} + \frac{2}{8} =$ ☐



Both denominators are 12, so the parts are the same size. We tick both denominators to show they match. Then, we draw the fraction line and write 12 underneath it.

Step 4

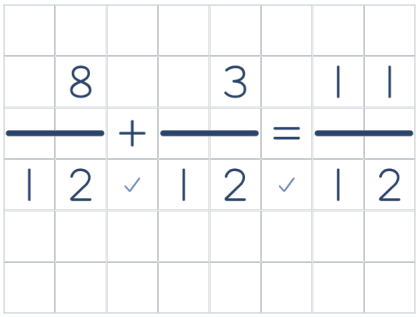
$\frac{4}{6} + \frac{2}{8} =$ ☐



Then, we add the numerators. 8 + 3 = 11. The denominator stays 12 because the parts are the same size. We write 11 above the fraction line.

Step 5

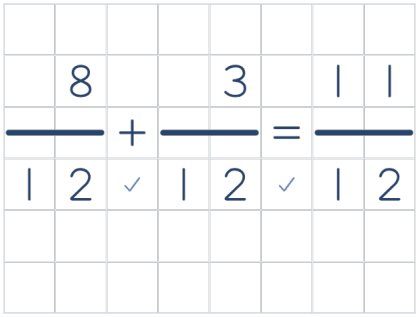
$\frac{4}{6} + \frac{2}{8} =$ ☐



The parts are the same size. Add 8 twelfths and 3 twelfths to make 11 twelfths. Keep 12 as the denominator.

Step 6

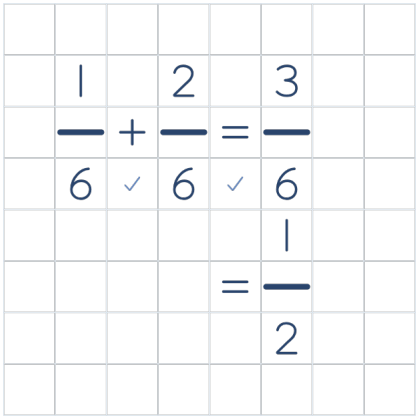
$\frac{4}{6} + \frac{2}{8} = \frac{11}{12}$



The sum is 11/12. Copy 11/12 into the answer box. Make sure you copy the answer correctly.

Step 7

$\frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{2}$



The sum is 3/6. Divide its numerator and denominator by 3. 3/6 is equivalent to 1/2.