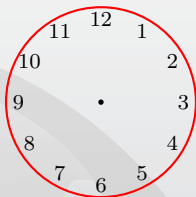


Some Exercises in Combining Fractions

D. P. Story

1. Adding and Subtracting Fractions

For the fifth grade, the concentration—at least in my son’s class—is on adding and subtracting fractions where the denominators are divisible by 12. The class uses a clock face to help them perform the operations.



For example, $1/12$ is one-twelfth of the way around the clock, or one movement of the hour hand; $1/6 = 2/12$ is two movements of the hour hand; $1/4 = 3/12$ is three movements of the hour hand; $1/3 = 4/12$ is four movements, etc.

You can add by adding the movements of the hour hand, counting clockwise, subtraction is performed by counting movements counter-clockwise.

Perform the indicated operations.

1. $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} = \underline{\quad}$

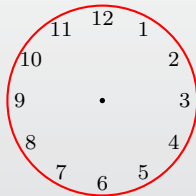
2. $\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} = \underline{\quad}$

3. $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{2} = \underline{\quad}$

4. $\frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{6} = \underline{\quad}$

5. $\frac{5}{12} + \frac{1}{6} = \underline{\quad}$

Count the clock movements by moving your mouse pointer around the clock.



Answers:

Perform the indicated operations.

1. $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} = \underline{\quad}$

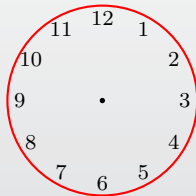
2. $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{12} = \underline{\quad}$

3. $\frac{3}{4} + \frac{2}{3} = \underline{\quad}$

4. $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{6} = \underline{\quad}$

5. $\frac{5}{12} + \frac{2}{3} = \underline{\quad}$

Count the clock movements by moving your mouse pointer around the clock.



Answers:

2. Testing Multiplication and Division

Here are some multiplications and divisions for testing purposes.

Perform the indicated operations.

1. $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{5} = \text{---}$

4. $2 + \frac{1}{2} = \text{---}$

2. $\frac{3}{5} \div \frac{1}{2} = \text{---}$

5. $-4 - \frac{2}{3} = \text{---}$

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

6. $\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{5}{6} = \text{---}$

Answers: