

## Ladder Method for GCF

Use this method to find the GCF of 2 or 3 numbers.

To find the GCF of 2 numbers:

### Example

Find the GCF of 8 and 12.

Step 1: 

	8		12
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Find a number that has a common divisor (goes into both numbers evenly).

Step 2: 

②		8		12	
	②		4		6
			2		3

Step 3: Draw a circle around each outside number, not including the bottom numbers.

Since there is no number that divides into 2 and 3 evenly, we are finished.

Find the GCF of 8 and 12 by multiplying all the circled numbers.

Step 4:  $2 \times 2 = 4$                       GCF = 4

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To find the GCF of 3 numbers:

### Example

Find the GCF of 16, 40 and 88.

②		16		40		88		
	②		8		20		44	
		②		4		10		22
				2		5		11

Since there is no number that divides into 2, 5, and 11, we are finished.

Find the GCF of 16, 40 and 88 by multiplying all the circled numbers.

$$2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$$

$$\text{GCF} = 8$$