Highest common factor and lowest common multiple

A factor of a given number is a whole number that divides into it without remainder.

The highest common factor (HCF) of 2 numbers is the largest number that will divide exactly into each of them.

The factors of 12 are 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 12.

The factors of 18 are 1, 2, 3, 6, 9 and 18.

The common factors of 12 and 18 are 1, 2, 3 and 6.

The HCF of 12 and 18 is 6.

A multiple of a given number is obtained by multiplying that number by a whole number.

The lowest common multiple (LCM) of 2 or more numbers is the smallest number that is a multiple of each of them.

The multiples of 6 are 6, 12, 18, 24, 30 and so on.

The multiples of 4 are 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32 and so on.

The common multiples of 6 and 4 are 12, 24 and so on.

The LCM of 6 and 4 is 12.