

Lesson 1.3.5: Simplifying Rational Algebraic Expressions

**Simplest Form:** A rational algebraic expression is in the simplest form if the numerator and the denominator are relatively prime which means that they have no common factor except 1.

**How to Simplify Rational Expressions:**

- 1. Factor the numerator and denominator completely.
- 2. Divide any common factors.

**Practice Exercises 1.3.5**

Simplify the following rational expressions.

- 1.  $\frac{4x + 16}{x - 5}$
- 2.  $\frac{5 - x}{3x^3 + 6x^2}$
- 3.  $\frac{3x^2}{4x^2 - 4x + 1}$
- 4.  $\frac{2x - 1}{x^2 + 5x + 6}$
- 5.  $\frac{x + 3}{x + 3}$

**Activity 1.3.5**

Simplify the following rational expressions.

- |                                     |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. $\frac{x^2 + 3x}{x + 3}$         | 6. $\frac{2x^2 + 4x}{x + 2}$         |
| 2. $\frac{2x^2 + 8x}{2x}$           | 7. $\frac{4x^3 - 8x^2}{4x^2}$        |
| 3. $\frac{x^2 - 16}{x - 4}$         | 8. $\frac{4x^2 - 25}{2x - 5}$        |
| 4. $\frac{x^3 + 64}{x^2 - 4x + 16}$ | 9. $\frac{8x^3 - 27}{4x^2 + 6x + 9}$ |
| 5. $\frac{2x^2 - 9x - 5}{x - 5}$    | 10. $\frac{3x^2 - 12x + 12}{x - 2}$  |

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