5 3 greatest common factor

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Greatest Common Factor (GCF): Questions and Answers

Q1: What is the Greatest Common Factor (GCF)?

A1: The GCF of two or more numbers is the largest number that divides all of the given numbers without leaving a remainder.

Q2: How do you find the GCF of 5 and 3?

A2:

1. **List the factors of each number:**
   - Factors of 5: 1, 5
   - Factors of 3: 1, 3

2. **Identify the common factors:** The common factor is 1.

Therefore, the GCF of 5 and 3 is 1.

Q3: How do you find the GCF of larger numbers, such as 12 and 18?

A3:

1. **Prime factorize each number:**
   - $12 = 2^2 * 3$
   - $18 = 2 * 3^2$

2. **Multiply the common prime factors with the highest powers:** The common prime factor is 3 and its highest power is 2.

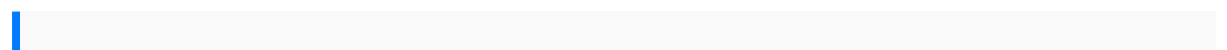3. **Therefore, the GCF of 12 and 18 is 3^2 = 9.**

Q4: What are the applications of GCF?

A4: The GCF is used in various areas, including:

- Simplifying fractions
- Solving equations
- Finding the least common multiple (LCM)

Q5: Is there a quick way to find the GCF of two numbers?

A5: Yes, there is a technique called the Euclidean Algorithm. It involves repeatedly dividing the larger number by the smaller number and using the remainder as the new divisor until the remainder is 0. The last non-zero remainder is the GCF.

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