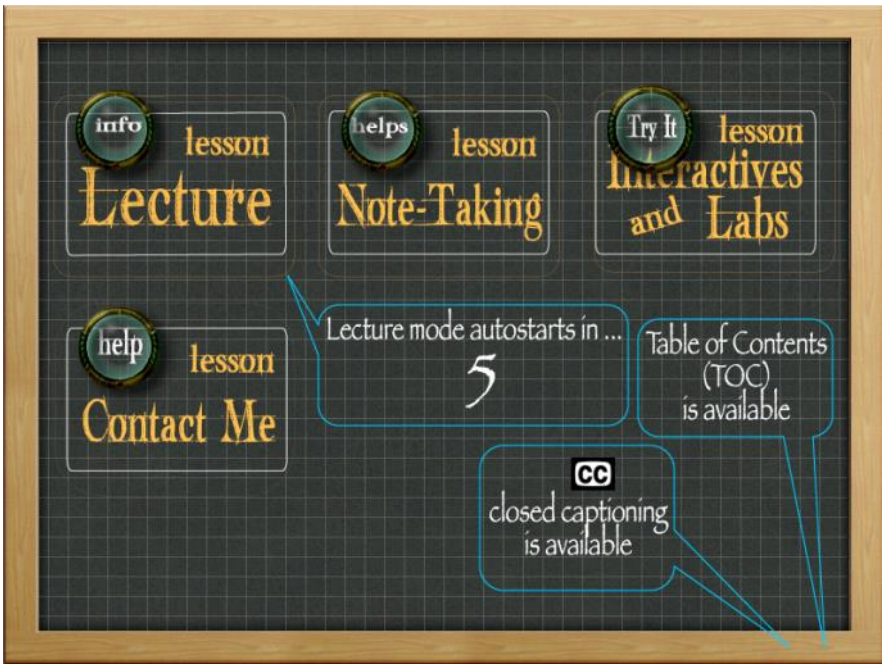
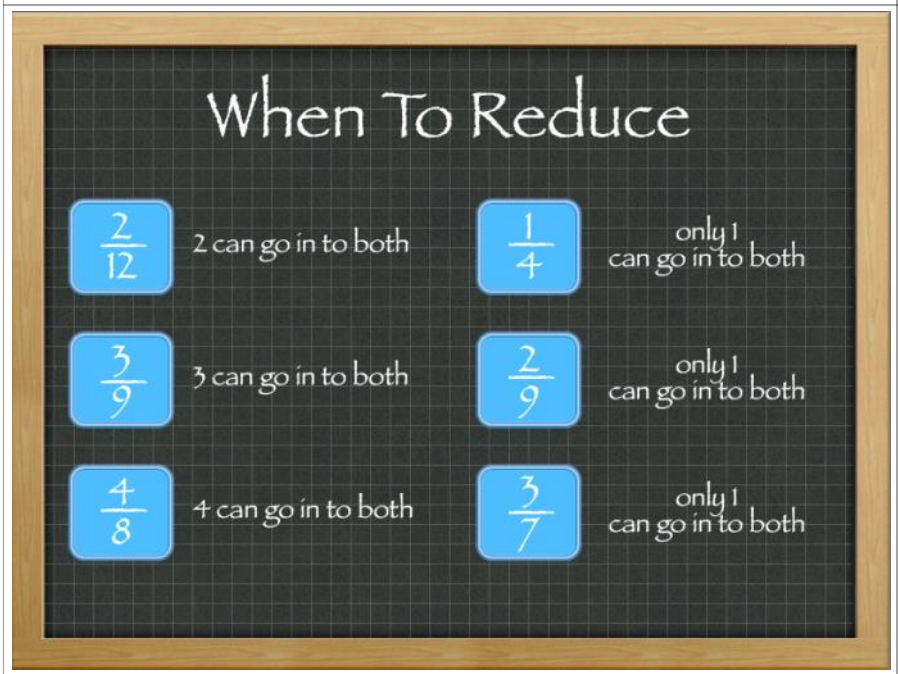
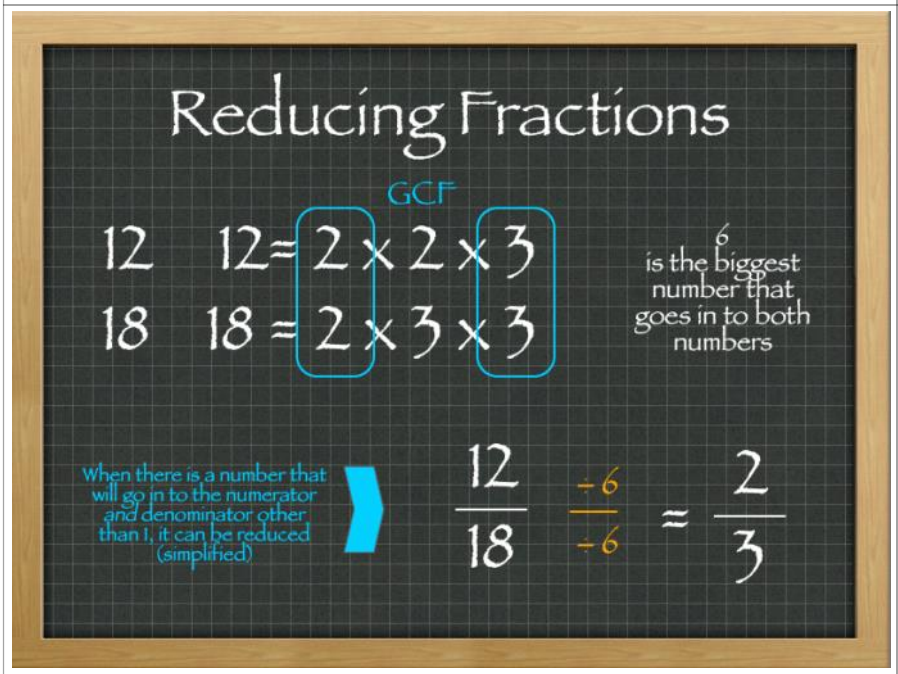
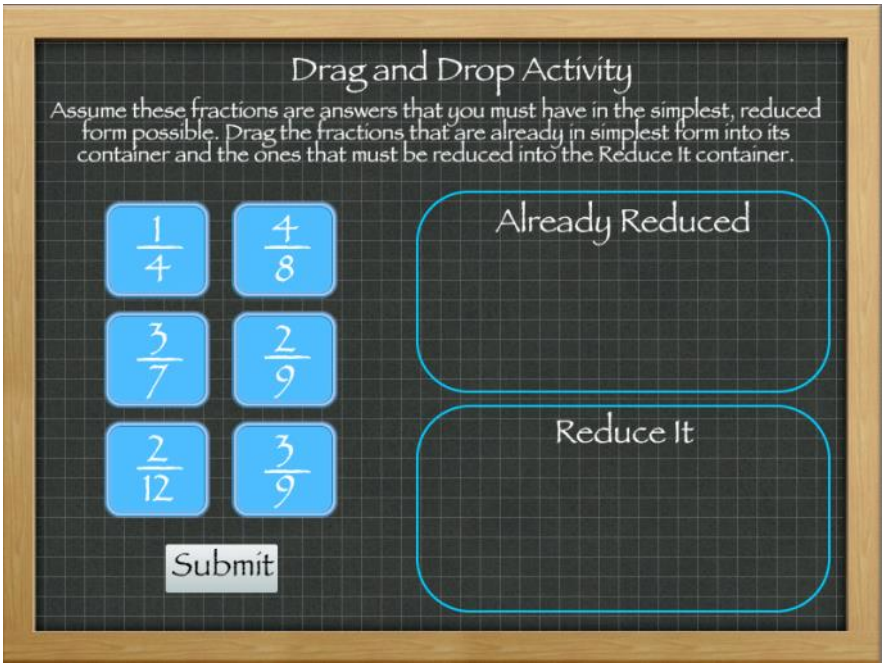
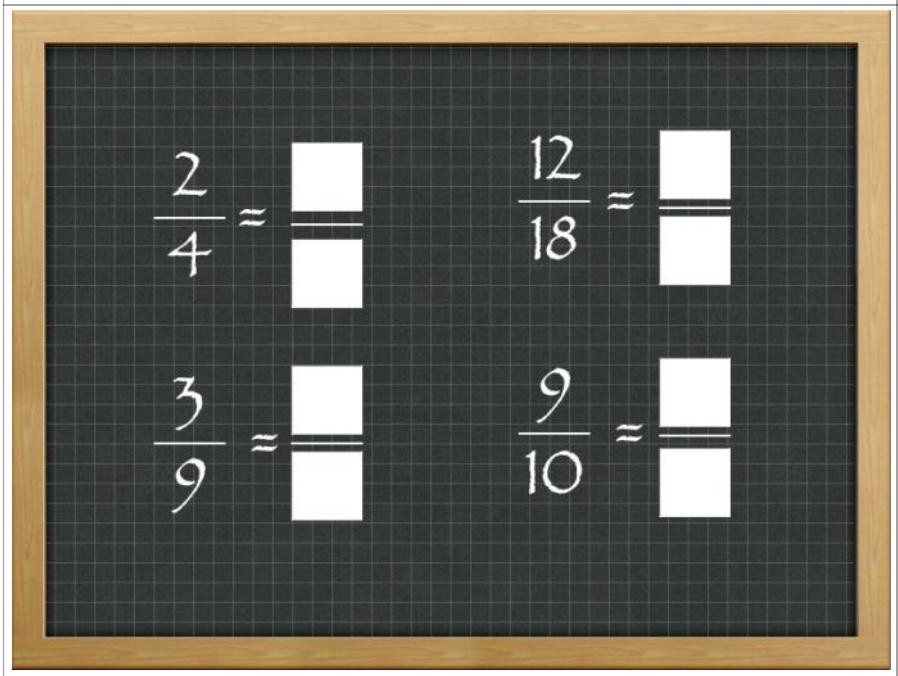
Reducing Fractions

Thursday, March 01, 2012
8:42 AM

Slide	Notes
	
	One of the key times to be sure that your fraction is in reduced, or simplified, form is when you report your answers. Let's take a look at these example fractions and learn to identify when the fraction is needing to be reduced versus it already being in the simplest form. The focus in identifying theses is to examine if there is a number, other than 1, that can go in to both the numerator and the denominator. For 2/12, 2 can go in to each one, so this one will need to be reduced. Let's check 3/9. Three can go in to both, so it needs to be reduced. 4/8. Four can go in to both numbers, so it needs to be reduced. 1/4. Only 1 can go in to both numbers. It will not need to be reduced because it is already in simplest form. 2/9. There are no numbers, other than 1, that can go in to both, so it is already in reduced

	form. 3/7. Other than 1, there are no numbers that can go in to both the three and the 7. It is already reduced.
	Now let's learn how to reduce the fractions. Usually, you will just be able to look at a fraction and you will just realize that 2 will go in to both or a 3 will go in to both. It is a perk of learning your multiplication facts well. You might sometimes hit one that you are not as sure about or maybe you see that 2 goes in to both numbers but after you reduce it you realize that there is still yet another number that will go in to both and you have to reduce it again. I am going to show you a technique that will make the not as obvious ones easier. Let's say that we have a fraction with 12 in the numerator and 18 in the denominator. They are both even numbers, so you know for sure that 2 will go in to both. But, then you realize 3 will too. Let's list out the factors of 12 and the factors of 18. Now, circle any pair of factors that you see in both. Each has at least one 2 and at least one 3. Multiply those together to get 6. Six is the biggest number that will go in to both the 12 and the 18. That is called the greatest common factor or GCF for short. Now let's reduce the 12/18ths by dividing by 6/6ths. When you reduce, you will always be dividing. The reduced fraction is 2/3.


Drag and Drop Activity
Assume these fractions are answers that you must have in the simplest, reduced form possible. Drag the fractions that are already in simplest form into its container and the ones that must be reduced into the Reduce It container.
1/4
4/8
3/7
2/9
2/12
3/9
Submit
Already Reduced
Reduce It


2/4 = ☐/☐
12/18 = ☐/☐
3/9 = ☐/☐
9/10 = ☐/☐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this topic
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