Name _____ # _____ Date _____

Determining Common Denominators

Find the common factors of $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{5}{8}$

STEP 1: List the multiples of both denominators.

2: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12
8: 8, 16, 24, 32, 40

STEP 2: Find the Least Common Multiple (LCM) of both numbers.

The LCM of 2 and 8 is: 8

STEP 3: Set up your fractions to help you determine the common denominators

$\frac{1}{2} = \frac{?}{8}$

$\frac{5}{8} = \frac{?}{8}$

To find the common denominators:

Divide the denominator of the first fraction by the denominator of the second fraction: 8÷ 2 = 4. Next you multiply 4 by the numerator 1, 4 x 1 = 4. So the new fraction is 4/8.

$\frac{1}{2} = \frac{4}{8}$

Repeat the steps: 8 ÷ 8 = 1, 1 x 5 = 5. So the new fraction is 5/8.

$\frac{5}{8} = \frac{5}{8}$

So, the fractions with common denominators are 4/8 and 5/8.