Answers and talk notes

Least Common Multiple

What your student is learning

Tonight we find the least common multiple (LCM) of two numbers. It is the smallest number that both numbers go into.

Answers

Ask your student to explain before you look.

1. **B.** 6, 12, 18, 24. Count by 6s: 6, 12, 18, 24.
2. **A.** 12. 12 is in the list of 3s (3, 6, 9, 12) and in the list of 4s (4, 8, 12).
3. **D.** 10. Multiples of 5: 5, 10. Multiples of 2: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10. The first match is 10.
4. **C.** 18. Multiples of 9: 9, 18. Multiples of 6: 6, 12, 18. The first match is 18.
5. **B.** 12. 12 is already a multiple of 4 (4 × 3), so the LCM is 12.
6. **A.** 24. Multiples of 6: 6, 12, 18, 24. Multiples of 8: 8, 16, 24. They next meet at 24 minutes.

Talk about it

Is there a smaller number that both 4 and 6 go into?

Home mission

Count by 4s out loud while your student counts by 6s. Stop at the first number you both say. Which number is it?

When they are stuck, ask

- Let's count by each number out loud and write the lists down.
- What is the first number that shows up in both lists?
- Does each number divide evenly into your answer? Let's check.

Try not to say

- Just add the two numbers to get the LCM.
- The LCM is just the bigger of the two numbers.
- Any common multiple, like 24, is the answer.