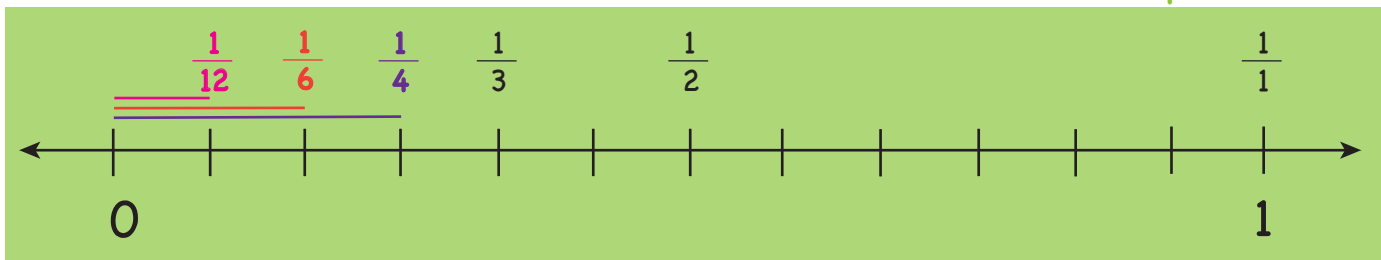


The Size of Unit Fraction and the Number in the Denominator

Example



Step 1: Add zero and one to the number line above. Measure a distance of 12 spaces between them.

Step 2: Mark off each of the 12 spaces between zero and one.

Step 3: In the left hand column of the chart, list the unit fractions in order from $1/1$ to $1/12$.

Step 4: Determine the length of the line segment that would go with each of the unit fractions.

Step 5: Locate and label some or all of the unit fractions on the number line.

Step 6: Describe what happens to the length of the unit fraction as the number in the denominator gets larger.

Unit Fractions	Length
one over one	12 spaces
one-half	6 spaces
one-third	4 spaces
one-fourth	3 spaces
one-fifth	2.4 spaces
one-sixth	2 spaces
one-seventh	1.7 spaces
one-eighth	1.5 spaces
one-ninth	1.3 spaces
one-tenth	1.2 spaces
one-eleventh	1.1 spaces
one-twelfth	1 space

As the number in the denominator gets larger, the unit fraction gets smaller.

When there are more people on the dance floor,
each person has less space in which to move.

When more line segments are needed to cover the distance between zero and one, each line segment has to be shorter in order to ensure all of them fit.

Half an hour is longer than a quarter of an hour.

