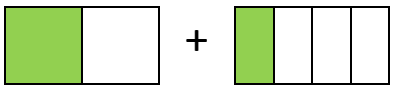
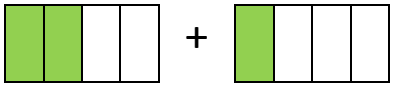
A Visual for finding a common denominator and adding two fractions

Example 1:

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4}$$



This is the visual of the original fractions



In order to add, you need to have parts which are the same size. This is accomplished by making the number of parts in a whole the same for both fractions. This is the idea of finding a common denominator.

$$\frac{2}{4} + \frac{1}{4}$$

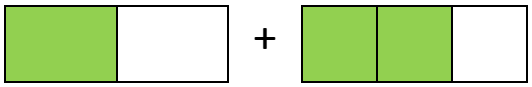
$$\frac{3}{4}$$

Total number of parts.

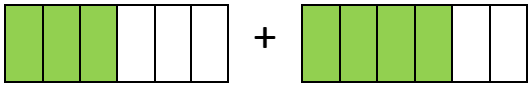
Number of parts in a whole

Example 2:

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{2}{3}$$



This is the visual of the original fractions



In order to add, you need to have parts which are the same size. This is accomplished by making the number of parts in a whole the same for both fractions. This is the idea of finding a common denominator.

$$\frac{3}{6} + \frac{4}{6}$$

$$\frac{7}{6}$$

Total number of parts.

Number of parts in a whole