

# Prime Factorization

A prime number has exactly two factors, 1 and itself.

Example: 17 is prime. Its factors are 1 and 17.

A composite number has more than two factors.

Example: 10 is composite. Its factors are 1, 2, 5, and 10.

One way to find the prime factors of a composite number is to divide by prime numbers.

$$84 \div 2 = 42$$

$$42 \div 2 = 21$$

$$21 \div 3 = 7$$

$$7 \div 7 = 1$$

84 is even. Divide by 2.

Divide by 2 until the quotient is odd.

3 is a prime factor of 21, divide by 3.

7 is prime. You have found the prime factors.

Write the prime factors from least to greatest:  $84 = 2 \times 2 \times 3 \times 7$ .

Then write the factors in exponential form:  $2^2 \times 3 \times 7$ .

For **1** through **12**, if a number is prime, write *prime*. If the number is composite, write the prime factorization.

**1.** 28 \_\_\_\_\_

**2.** 36 \_\_\_\_\_

**3.** 29 \_\_\_\_\_

**4.** 70 \_\_\_\_\_

**5.** 55 \_\_\_\_\_

**6.** 81 \_\_\_\_\_

**7.** 84 \_\_\_\_\_

**8.** 99 \_\_\_\_\_

**9.** 75 \_\_\_\_\_

**10.** 43 \_\_\_\_\_

**11.** 45 \_\_\_\_\_

**12.** 64 \_\_\_\_\_

**13. Writing to Explain** Explain how you can check to see if your prime factorization is correct.

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**14. Strategy Practice** How can you tell that 342 is divisible by 3?

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