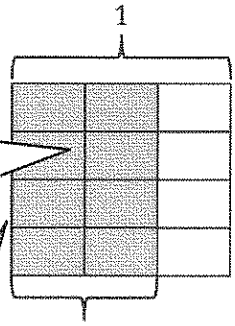
G5-M3-Lesson 5

1. Find the difference. Use a rectangular fraction model to find a common unit. Simplify your answer, if possible.

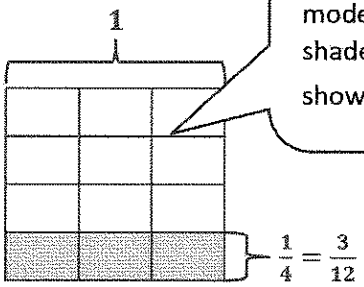
$\frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{4} = \frac{5}{12}$

In order to subtract fourths from thirds, I need to find like units.

I draw 2 vertical lines to partition my model into thirds and shade 2 of them to show the fraction $\frac{2}{3}$.



I draw 3 horizontal lines to partition my model into fourths and shade 1 of them to show the fraction $\frac{1}{4}$.



In order to make like units, or common denominators, I draw 3 horizontal lines to partition the model into 12 equal parts. Now, I can see that $\frac{2}{3} = \frac{8}{12}$.

I still can't subtract. Fourths and twelfths are different units. But, I can draw 2 vertical lines to partition the model into 12 equal parts. Now, I have equal units and can see that $\frac{1}{4} = \frac{3}{12}$.

$\frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{4} = \frac{8}{12} - \frac{3}{12} = \frac{5}{12}$

Once I have like units, the subtraction is simple. I know that 8 minus 3 is equal to 5, so I can think of this in unit form very simply.

8 twelfths − 3 twelfths = 5 twelfths