Unit 9 Objective 2 Remediation Simplifying Square Roots

Simplifying a square root of a whole number means finding an equivalent expression with the smallest possible number under the radical sign. This is called writing the number in **simplest radical form**.

To write a square root in simplest radical form we first find the **largest possible square factor** of the number under the radical sign. Then we use the Product property.

Product Property of Square Roots

The Product rule states that we can break the square root a number into the square root of product of two factors.

$$\sqrt{ab} = \sqrt{a} \cdot \sqrt{b}$$

Example One

Simplify $\sqrt{108}$

Look for the **largest possible perfect square** that will divide evenly into 108. 4, 9 and 36 are perfect squares that divide evenly into 108, but 36 is the largest.

$$\sqrt{108} = \sqrt{36} \cdot \sqrt{3} = 6\sqrt{3}$$

The simplest radical form of $\sqrt{108} = 6\sqrt{3}$.

Example Two

Simplify $\sqrt{192}$

Look for the **largest possible perfect square** that will divide evenly into 192. 4, 16 and 64 are perfect squares that divide evenly into 192, but 64 is the largest.

$$\sqrt{192} = \sqrt{64} \cdot \sqrt{3} = 8\sqrt{3}$$

The simplest radical form of $\sqrt{192} = 8\sqrt{3}$.

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