

A difference of two fractions

Teacher notes

Why use this resource?

This is a problem about Egyptian fractions presented from a different angle. By working on the problem, students may get lots of practice at manipulating fractions, and they can also start to explain patterns they have noticed by exploring algebraic structure.

Preparation

The resource has cards which can be printed and cut out.

Possible approach

The bullet points in the **Problem** section provide a structure for supporting students as they explore the unit fractions.

For a more investigative approach, the question about probability could be posed by itself.

Possible support

The questions in the **Suggestion** section, such as “How do you subtract two fractions with different denominators?” could be used to provide extra support.

If students are struggling with the probability part of the problem, you could suggest they draw a sample space diagram or ask them how they could use the diagram from the **Solution** section.

Possible extension

Encourage students to explain and try to generalise any patterns they have noticed.

For further work exploring fractions, including algebraic fractions, students could try [Which is bigger?](#) at the [Thinking about algebra](#) station.

If students would like to explore the importance of highest common factors in what they have noticed, they could try to make links with [Buckets and ponds](#) or [Picture this!](#) at the [Divisibility and induction](#) station.