

**Section 4.1 – Factors & Multiples**

**Definition of Divisibility:** If  $a$  and  $b$  are any whole numbers, then  $a$  is said to **divide**  $b$  if and only if there exists a **whole number**  $c$  such that  $b = ac$ . In other words,  $a$  **divides**  $b$  if and only if the quotient is a **whole number** — **no remainder allowed!**

**NOTATION:**  $a \mid b$  “ $a$  divides  $b$ ”

**For example:** consider the fact  $15 = 5 \cdot 3$

<b>We can say:</b>	5 divides 15	<b>also,</b>	5 is a divisor of 15
	$5 \mid 15$		5 is a factor of 15
	15 is divisible by 5		15 is a multiple of 5

**DIVISIBILITY CRITERIA:** A whole number  $x$  is divisible by:

- 2 if and only if the last digit of  $x$  is divisible by 2.
- 3 if and only if the sum of its digits is divisible by 3.
- 4 if and only if the last two digits of  $x$  are divisible by 4.
- 5 if and only if the last digit of  $x$  is 5 or 0.
- 6 if and only if  $x$  is divisible by both 2 and 3.
- 9 if and only if the sum of its digits is divisible by 9.
- 10 if and only if  $x$  ends in 0.

**Ex. A)** Use divisibility criteria to answer the following. John has 2,144 pieces of candy. Can he divide them evenly among:  
(a) 2 people? (b) 3 people? (c) 4 people? (d) 5 people? (e) 6 people?  
(f) 9 people? Use divisibility criteria only!

**Definitions:** A natural number greater than 1 is **prime** if and only if its only two distinct factors are 1 and itself. A natural number is **composite** if and only if it has a natural number divisor other than itself and 1.

**NOTE:** Since 1 has only one factor, it is considered neither prime nor composite.

**Ex B)** Determine whether 157 is prime.

### **Practice Problems Over Section 4.1**

1. Leap years are divisible by 4. Years that end in two zeros must be divisible by 400 in order to be leap years. Which of the following are leap years?

- (a) 1000      (b) 1492      (c) 1984      (d) 1800      (e) 1776      (f) 2006

2. Fill in each blank with "multiple" or "factor:"

- (a) 1 is a \_\_\_\_\_ of every natural number.  
(b) 3 is a \_\_\_\_\_ of 15.  
(c) 25 is a \_\_\_\_\_ of 5.

### **Section 4.2 – Prime Factorization**

**Prime Factorization** is the expression of a composite number as a product of all of its prime divisors. Two common methods for prime factorization are (1) the **prime-divisor method** (flowchart algorithm – see next page) and (2) the **factor-tree method**.

**Ex. C)** Work through the prime factorization flowchart algorithm to determine the prime factorization of 60. Then use the factor-tree method. What is an advantage and a disadvantage of each method?

**Ex. D)** Use a factor tree to find the prime factorization of 350.

**Ex. E)** Write the prime factorization of 1,386.

### **FUNDAMENTAL THEOREM OF ARITHMETIC:**

**Every** composite natural number can be factored into a **unique** product of primes.

### **Practice Problems Over Section 4.2**

1. Sketch a factor tree to find the prime factors of:

- (a) 90      (b) 320      (c) 495

# Prime factorization flow chart:

start dividing by 2, if possible, for however many times possible, then by 3, then 5, etc.

