Familiarisation task: Adding fractions with unlike denominators

Fractions Lab will not simply add fractions with unlike denominators for you. This sheet shows you how you can do it.

1. Make $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ using the same type of representation. E.g.

2. Extract the numerators by double clicking on them. Try to add them together by dragging them together and clicking 'add'. Watch the animation.

3. Why do you think Fractions Lab hasn't given you the answer this time?

4. What do you need to do to $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ so that Fractions Lab will add them together?

5. Use the 'find equivalent' tool to change 1/4 and 1/3 into fractions that Fractions Lab will add together. (You can do this by changing the number of partitions with the until they have the same denominator). What fractions did you need to make?

I changed $\frac{1}{4}$ into …

I changed $\frac{1}{3}$ into …

6. Now add the two new fractions together.

7. Drag the three fractions into the 'add/subtract box'. What is the answer? $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{3} =$