

The Birthday Cake Method

1. Write your starting number as the first layer of the cake.
2. On the outside of the first layer, write a PRIME NUMBER that will divide evenly into the bottom layer.
3. Divide and write your answer as a second layer.
4. On the outside of the second layer, write a PRIME NUMBER that will divide evenly into the second layer.
5. Divide and write your answer as a third layer.
6. Repeat until you end up with a 1 on the top of your cake. This is the candle of your birthday cake!
7. Use the numbers on the outside of the layers to write the prime factorization.

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