

# THE BIRTHDAY CAKE METHOD FOR FINDING PRIME FACTORIZATION

Always build your cake from the bottom to the top!

1. The first tier of your cake will always be the number you wish to find the prime factorization of.
2. On the outside of the first tier, write a PRIME NUMBER that divides evenly into that tier.
3. Divide the first tier by this number. Write your answer as a second tier.
4. Again, write a PRIME NUMBER on the outside of the tier that divides evenly into that tier.
5. Divide the tier by this number. Write your answer as the next tier.
6. Repeat this process until the answer to your division problem is 1. The 1 is the candle to your birthday cake. Remember – a birthday cake is not a birthday cake without a candle!
7. Use the prime numbers written on the outside of the layers to write your prime factorization.

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