

A mason has to fit a bathroom with square marble tiles of the largest possible size. The size of the bathroom is 10 ft. by 8 ft. What would be the size in inches of the tile required that has to be cut and how many such tiles are required?

Solution:

$$1 \text{ ft.} = 12 \text{ inches}$$

$$10 \text{ ft.} = 10 \times 12 = 120 \text{ inches}$$

$$8 \text{ ft.} = 8 \times 12 = 96 \text{ inches}$$

The largest possible size of the tile is the HCF of 120 and 96.

By Euclid's Division Algorithm

$$120 = 96 \times 1 + 24$$

$$96 = 24 \times 4 + 0$$

$$\text{HCF} = 24$$

$$\therefore \text{Size of the tile} = 24 \text{ inches}$$

$$\text{Number of tiles} = \frac{\text{Area of bathroom}}{\text{Area of tile}} = \frac{120 \times 96}{24 \times 24} = 5 \times 4 = 20$$