Possible Solutions

John's class took a field trip to the zoo. During the trip, he saw 12 bears and 36 animals from the big cat family. What is the ratio of bears to cats that John saw?

- In order to solve the problem, first take the number of bears (12) and compare it to the number of cats (36). Thus, creating a ratio, 12:36.
- Next, reduce this ratio into lowest terms by finding the greatest common factor (if possible) to divide by. In this case, 12 is the greatest common factor, so divide both sides by 12, creating the ratio 1:3.

1:3 because John saw 3 times as many cats as bears, or

1:3 because John saw $\frac{1}{3}$ as many bears as cats.