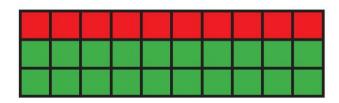# INTRODUCING RATIOS

In this diagram, two-thirds of the squares are red and one-third is green. We say that the ratio of red squares to green squares is 2:1

In this diagram, one-third of the squares are red and two-thirds are green. We say that the ratio of red squares to green squares is 1:2

In this diagram, the ratio of red squares to green squares is 1:1

RATIOS

Ratios are used to compare quantities with the same units. The ratio of **a** to **b** is written **a:b**

Ex: a drink was made with the ratio of cordial to water of 1:3

The colon **:** is the mathematical symbol used to represent ratios.

The written ratio of a:b is read as the ratio of *'a to b'* or *'a is to b'*.

The order is which the quantities are written in a ratio is important.

Before ratios can be written, the quantities must be expressed in the same unit.

It is possible to have three or more numbers is a ratio.

Example: the ratio of flour:water:milk in a cake is 2:3:1