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The diagram illustrates the addition of 15 and 12 using base ten blocks. The first number, 15, is represented by one ten rod and five one units. The second number, 12, is represented by one ten rod and two one units. The sum, 27, is shown in two ways: first as two ten rods and seven one units, and then as one ten rod and seven one units after breaking apart a ten rod into ten one units.



