Comparing Fractions with Same Numerator or Denominator

Apply the skill to decisions and designs

Name _____ **Date** _____ **Score** _____ / 6

QUICK REVIEW

Use equal-size wholes. With the same denominator, compare the counts: $\frac{4}{5} > \frac{1}{5}$. With the same numerator, compare piece sizes: $\frac{1}{5} > \frac{1}{8}$ because fifths are larger than eighths.

Worked example

Compare the shaded fractions in the two same-size strips. Write $<$, $=$, or $>$.



1. Both wholes have 4 equal parts, so each piece has size $\frac{1}{4}$.

2. Compare the counts: $2 < 3$. Therefore $\frac{2}{4} < \frac{3}{4}$.

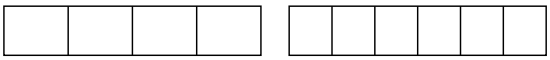
Answer: $\frac{2}{4} < \frac{3}{4}$.

Practice Problems

Show your thinking.

1. Bo eats $\frac{2}{3}$ of a sandwich; Eve eats $\frac{1}{3}$ of a same-size sandwich. Who eats more? Explain.

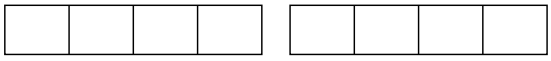
2. Two ribbons have the same whole length. Color one $\frac{3}{4}$ and the other $\frac{3}{6}$. Which colored length is longer?



3. Bo eats $\frac{5}{8}$ of a sandwich; Eve eats $\frac{7}{8}$ of a same-size sandwich. Who eats more? Explain.

4. The numerator is fixed at 2. Use denominators 6 and 8 to put the smaller fraction first.

5. Two ribbons have the same whole length. Color one $\frac{1}{4}$ and the other $\frac{3}{4}$. Which colored length is longer?



6. Bo eats $\frac{1}{3}$ of a sandwich; Eve eats $\frac{1}{2}$ of a same-size sandwich. Who eats more? Explain.

Answer Key

1. $\frac{2}{3} > \frac{1}{3}$. Bo eats more.
2. $\frac{3}{4} > \frac{3}{6}$.
3. $\frac{5}{8} < \frac{7}{8}$. Eve eats more.
4. $\frac{2}{8} < \frac{2}{6}$.
5. $\frac{1}{4} < \frac{3}{4}$.
6. $\frac{1}{3} < \frac{1}{2}$. Eve eats more.

Step-by-Step Solutions

Follow each calculation, then check your own work.

Problem 1

1. Both wholes have 3 equal parts, so each piece has size $\frac{1}{3}$.
2. Compare the counts: $2 > 1$. Therefore $\frac{2}{3} > \frac{1}{3}$.

Problem 2

1. Both fractions count 3 pieces of same-size wholes. Parts of size $\frac{1}{4}$ are larger than parts of size $\frac{1}{6}$.
2. The same 3 pieces give more when each piece is larger, so $\frac{3}{4} > \frac{3}{6}$.

Problem 3

1. Both wholes have 8 equal parts, so each piece has size $\frac{1}{8}$.
2. Compare the counts: $5 < 7$. Therefore $\frac{5}{8} < \frac{7}{8}$.

Problem 4

1. Both fractions count 2 pieces of same-size wholes. Parts of size $\frac{1}{6}$ are larger than parts of size $\frac{1}{8}$.
2. The same 2 pieces give more when each piece is larger, so $\frac{2}{6} > \frac{2}{8}$.

Problem 5

1. Both wholes have 4 equal parts, so each piece has size $\frac{1}{4}$.
2. Compare the counts: $1 < 3$. Therefore $\frac{1}{4} < \frac{3}{4}$.

Problem 6

1. Both fractions count 1 pieces of same-size wholes. Parts of size $\frac{1}{2}$ are larger than parts of size $\frac{1}{3}$.
2. The same 1 pieces give more when each piece is larger, so $\frac{1}{3} < \frac{1}{2}$.

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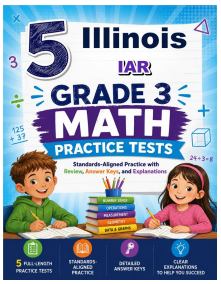

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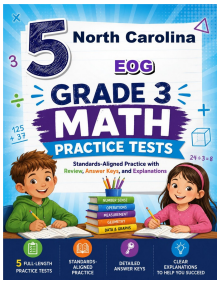

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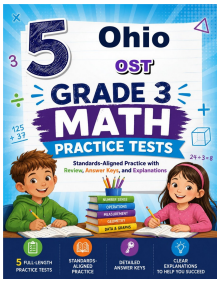

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