

Master Comparing 3-Digit Numbers

Rationale

In this step, pupils will build on their previous learning of comparing two number representations by comparing two 3-digit numbers and 3-digit and 2-digit numbers, represented as numerals. They will continue to use the symbols $>$, $<$ and $=$ and the vocabulary 'greater than', 'less than' and 'equal to' in their comparisons. They will work from left to right to compare digits and explain why a number is greater than or less than another using 'more' and 'fewer'. Pupils will demonstrate their understanding of comparing 3-digit numbers through the use of number lines. They will also develop their learning by writing digits to complete comparison statements.



Key Stem Sentences

- ___ is greater than / $>$ ___
- ___ is less than / $<$ ___
- ___ is equal to / $=$ ___
- ___ has more / fewer / no ___s.



Key Vocabulary

- compare
- greater than / less than / equal to
- more / fewer / no



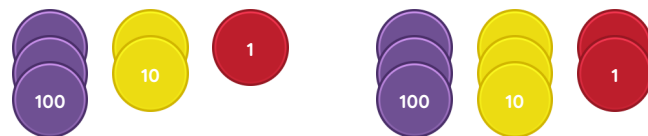
Common Errors or Misconceptions

- Pupils may use the vocabulary or symbols incorrectly to compare two numbers.
- Pupils may misread the place value of digits.



Key Representations

Place value counters



321 has fewer tens than 332. 321 is less than 332

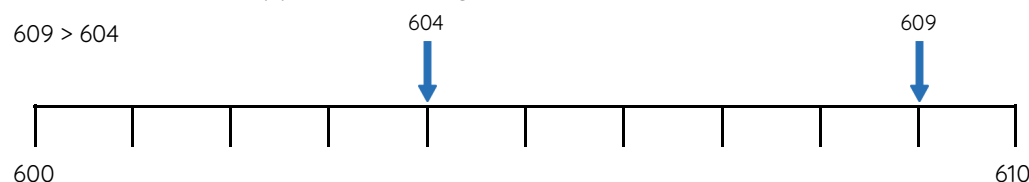
Place value charts with digits

100s	10s	1s
9	1	7
7	8	5

917 has more hundreds than 785
917 is greater than 785

Number lines (to support reasoning)

609 $>$ 604



Pupils will FLOURISH if they can...

- identify a number that is greater than, less than or equal to another.
- use a number line to show numbers greater than, less than or equal to another.
- write digits to complete comparison statements.
- begin to explain their understanding using 'Decide, Assess, Back up', given stems and representations.

