

# 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



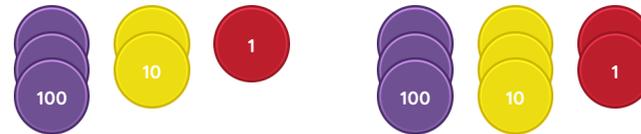
## Common Errors or Misconceptions

- 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

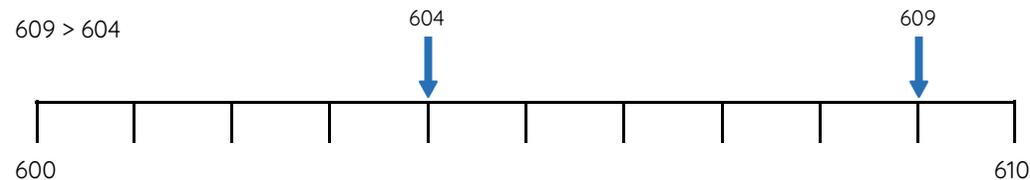
### Place value charts with digits

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.

