

Master Comparing 4-Digit Numbers

Rationale

In this step, pupils will build on their previous learning of comparing 3-digit numbers in Year 3 by comparing two 4-digit numbers and 4-digit and 3-digit numbers. They 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, looking at the greatest place value column first, to compare the digits and explain why a number is greater than or less than another using 'more' and 'fewer'. Pupils will demonstrate their understanding of comparing 4-digit numbers through the use of number lines. They will also develop their learning by writing missing 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



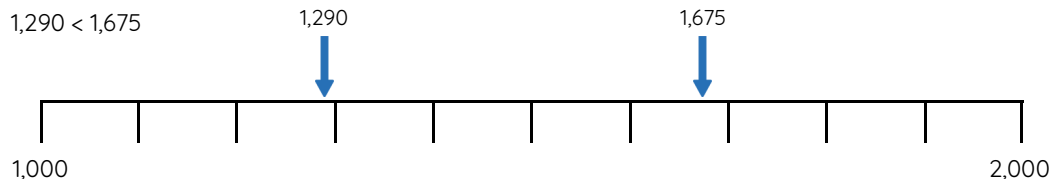
4,302 has more thousands than 2,043. 4,302 is greater than 2,043

Place value charts with digits

1,000s	100s	10s	1s
8	8	1	7
8	9	5	6

8,817 has fewer hundreds than 8,956
8,817 is less than 8,956

Number lines (to support reasoning)



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.
- explain their understanding using 'Decide, Assess, Back up' with representations.

