1st Grade Math: Comparing Numbers

In this lesson, we will learn how to **compare numbers** to see which is bigger, smaller, or if two numbers are equal.

Key Concepts

1. Greater Than (>)

- A number is **greater than** another if it is **bigger**.
- Example: 7 is **greater than** 5, so we write it as **7 > 5**.

2. Less Than (<)

- A number is **less than** another if it is **smaller**.
- Example: 3 is **less than** 8, so we write it as **3 < 8**.

3. Equal To (=)

- Two numbers are **equal** when they are the **same**.
- Example: 4 is **equal to** 4, so we write it as **4 = 4**.

How to Compare Numbers

1. Use a Number Line

- A number line can help you compare numbers. The number on the right is always bigger, and the number on the left is smaller.

Example:

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                                                    Copy code

0  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10
```

- You can see that 5 is to the left of 8, so **5 < 8** (5 is less than 8).

- And 9 is to the right of 3, so **9 > 3** (9 is greater than 3).

2. Compare Digits

- When comparing numbers, start by looking at the biggest place value (the left-most digit).

- If the first digits are different, the larger digit means the larger number.

Example:

- Compare 6 and 4: Since 6 is bigger than 4, we write **6 > 4**.

- Compare 2 and 9: Since 2 is smaller than 9, we write **2 < 9**.

3. Same Numbers

- If both numbers are the same, they are equal. Example: **5 = 5**.

Comparing Two-Digit Numbers

When comparing two-digit numbers (numbers with tens and ones), start by comparing the **tens** place first.

Example:

- Compare 34 and 27:
  - First look at the tens place: 3 tens vs. 2 tens. Since 3 is bigger than 2, **34 > 27**.
- Compare 18 and 25:
  - First look at the tens place: 1 ten vs. 2 tens. Since 1 is smaller than 2, **18 < 25**.

Practice with Symbols

Use the symbols to compare numbers:

- Greater Than (>): If the first number is bigger, use this symbol.
- Less Than (<): If the first number is smaller, use this symbol.
- Equal To (=): If both numbers are the same, use this symbol.

Examples

1. Compare **7 and 9**:
   7 is smaller than 9, so **7 < 9**.
2. Compare **4 and 2**:
   4 is bigger than 2, so **4 > 2**.
3. Compare **10 and 10**:
   Both numbers are the same, so **10 = 10**.

Activity

Let's practice comparing numbers:

- Is **5** greater than, less than, or equal to **3**?
  Answer: **5 > 3**
- Is **8** greater than, less than, or equal to **10**?
  Answer: **8 < 10**
- Is **6** greater than, less than, or equal to **6**?
  Answer: **6 = 6**

Summary

- Use **greater than (>)**, **less than (<)**, and **equal to (=)** to compare numbers.
- A number line helps us see which numbers are bigger or smaller.
- Compare the digits in the tens and ones places to decide which number is larger or smaller.

By practicing, you will become a pro at comparing numbers!