

1st Grade Math: Comparing, Ordering, and Patterns

1. Comparing Numbers

When we **compare** numbers, we look at which number is **bigger** or **smaller**. To compare, we use special symbols:

- " $>$ " means **greater than**.
- " $<$ " means **less than**.
- " $=$ " means **equal to**.

Example:

- Compare **7** and **5**:
 - **$7 > 5$** (7 is greater than 5)
- Compare **4** and **6**:
 - **$4 < 6$** (4 is less than 6)

2. Ordering Numbers

Ordering numbers means putting them in a sequence from **smallest to largest** or from **largest to smallest**.

Example (Smallest to Largest):

Put these numbers in order: **3, 8, 1, 6**

- First, find the smallest number: **1**
- Then, the next smallest: **3**
- Next: **6**
- Last: **8**

So, in order from smallest to largest: **1, 3, 6, 8**

Example (Largest to Smallest):

Put these numbers in order: **5, 9, 2, 7**

- First, find the largest number: **9**
- Then, the next largest: **7**
- Next: **5**
- Last: **2**

So, in order from largest to smallest: **9, 7, 5, 2**

3. Patterns

Patterns are sequences of numbers or shapes that follow a rule. To find the pattern, you look at what changes between each step.

Types of Patterns

- **Number Patterns:** Numbers are arranged in a specific order.
 - Example: **2, 4, 6, 8, 10** (This is a pattern where each number is 2 more than the last number.)
- **Shape Patterns:** Shapes are repeated in a specific order.
 - Example: **circle, square, circle, square** (This pattern repeats every two shapes.)

Finding a Pattern:

Let's find the next number in this pattern: **3, 6, 9, 12**

Look at what's happening between each number. The pattern is adding **3** each time. So, the next number would be **$12 + 3 = 15$** .

Summary

- **Comparing** numbers helps you find which is bigger or smaller.
- **Ordering** numbers helps you arrange them from smallest to largest (or largest to smallest).
- **Patterns** help you find what comes next by following a rule or sequence.

By practicing comparing, ordering, and finding patterns, you'll get better at recognizing the relationships between numbers and shapes!