Name _____ Date _____

Greater than, less than

Compare two numbers and use the signs <, > and =.

1 Learn



When we **compare** two numbers, we find which one is **greater** (bigger) and which one is **less** (smaller). Maths has special signs for this!



8 > 3 8 is greater than 3

<	is **less than**
>	is **greater than**
=	is **equal to**

Compare 35 and 52

35 < 52

1. Which is greater? Count on from 35 and you reach 52 later, so **52 is greater**.

2. Turn the open side of the sign to face 52: **35 < 52.**

3. Read it from left to right: "35 **is less than** 52".

If both numbers are the same, use =: 40 = 40, "40 is equal to 40".

Flip's tip: the **open side** of < and > always faces the **greater** number. The **point** faces the smaller number.

Warm up: draw a ring round the **greater** number in each pair.

6 9 | 14 11 | 30 50 | 72 27

Grown-ups: read Flip's words aloud. Ask your child to say the whole sentence, such as "8 is greater than 3", not just the sign. Many schools call this "greater than" and "less than", so use those words.

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2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Handful face-off

You need: a bowl of small dry things (pasta, buttons or dried beans) and two pencils.

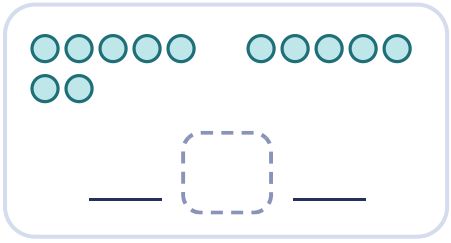
1. You each take **one handful** and make your own pile.
2. Count your pile. Moving each piece as you count helps. Write the number in the table.
3. Lay the two pencils between the piles to make a sign: the **open side faces the bigger pile**. If the piles are the same, lay the pencils side by side to make =.
4. Read it aloud from left to right: "23 is greater than 17". Then swap sides and say it the other way.

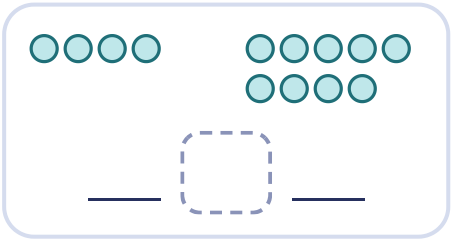
Round	My handful	< > or =	Grown-up's handful
1			
2			
3			

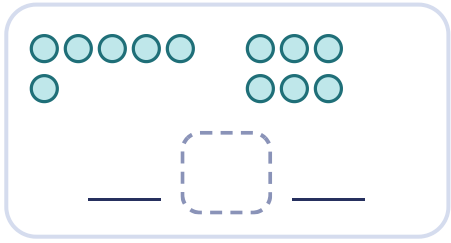
Grown-ups: when the piles are swapped, the sign turns round too: 23 > 17 becomes 17 < 23. Both are true! For round 3, take a pinch out of one pile to make the two numbers equal.

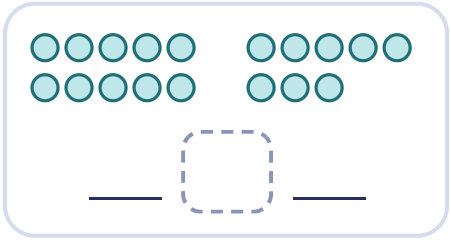
3 Practise

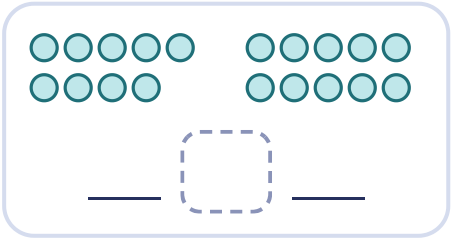
A. Count the counters. Write the two numbers, then <, > or = in the box.

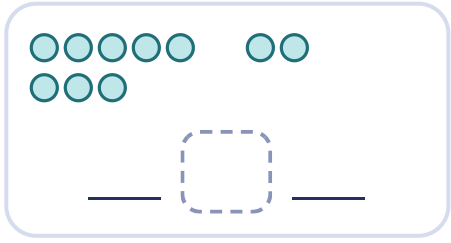












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B. Write <, > or = in each box.

45 ☐ 54	70 ☐ 17	38 ☐ 38	100 ☐ 90
12 ☐ 21	83 ☐ 88	9 ☐ 19	66 ☐ 60

C. In each set, draw a ring round the **greatest** number. Draw a line under the **smallest** number.

27 72 47	15 51 50	88 80 8

D. Words and signs. Fill the gaps.

"46 is less than 64"	"90 is greater than 19"	**25 > 12**
46 ☐ 64	**90 ☐ 19**	25 is _____ than 12

Challenge

Leo writes **15 > 51**. He says, "15 comes first, so it's the greater number." Is he right? Write the correct number sentence.

_____

_____

_____

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ say which of two numbers is greater and which is less
- ☐ use < and > with the open side facing the greater number
- ☐ use = when two numbers are the same