Which slice is bigger? Answers and notes

What your child practised: comparing and ordering unit fractions and fractions with the same bottom number, and spotting equal fractions on a fraction wall (Year 3).

Page 1 · Warm up

$\frac{1}{2}$ · $\frac{1}{3}$ · $\frac{5}{8}$

Page 2 · Try it together

$\frac{1}{2}$ is bigger than $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{8}$. $\frac{1}{8}$ is the smallest.

Page 2 · A. <, > or =

$\frac{1}{3} > \frac{1}{5}$ · $\frac{1}{8} < \frac{1}{4}$ · $\frac{4}{6} < \frac{5}{6}$ · $\frac{2}{10} < \frac{7}{10}$ ·
$\frac{1}{2} > \frac{1}{3}$ · $\frac{3}{4} > \frac{1}{4}$

Page 3 · B. Smallest first

$\frac{1}{8}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{2}$
$\frac{2}{7}, \frac{3}{7}, \frac{5}{7}, \frac{6}{7}$

Page 3 · C. Equal fractions

$\frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{4}$ · $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{4}{8}$ · $\frac{1}{4} = \frac{2}{8}$ · $\frac{1}{3} = \frac{2}{6}$

Page 3 · D. Cake

Ava. Both cakes are the same size; thirds are bigger pieces than sixths, so $\frac{1}{3} > \frac{1}{6}$.

Page 3 · E. Equal to $\frac{1}{2}$

Ring $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{4}{8}$, $\frac{3}{6}$.

Challenge: No. A whole cut into 8 has smaller pieces than a whole cut into 2. So $\frac{1}{8}$ is **smaller** than $\frac{1}{2}$: $\frac{1}{8} < \frac{1}{2}$. The fraction wall shows it.

Watch out for

- **Thinking a bigger bottom number means a bigger fraction.** Ask "Would you rather share a pizza with 2 people or with 8?"
- **Mixing up < and >.** The open side faces the bigger fraction.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Share a pizza:** "Which is bigger, a half or a quarter of the pizza?"
- **Fair or not:** one cake cut into 4, another into 8. Which slice would you choose?
- **In the game:** Chapter 5, Fraction Mixer, adds fractions with the same bottom number.