Name _____ Date _____

Which slice is bigger?

Comparing and ordering fractions, using a fraction wall.

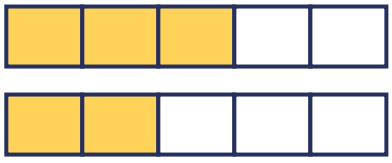
1 Learn



The more pieces a whole is cut into, the **smaller** each piece. So $\frac{1}{8}$ is smaller than $\frac{1}{2}$, even though 8 is bigger than 2!

1 whole							
1/2				1/2			
1/3			1/3			1/3	
1/4		1/4		1/4		1/4	
1/6		1/6		1/6		1/6	
1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8

Worked example: which is bigger, $\frac{3}{5}$ or $\frac{2}{5}$?



1. The bottom numbers are the **same**, so the parts are the same size.
2. Compare the top numbers: 3 parts is more than 2 parts.
3. So $\frac{3}{5}$ is bigger: $\frac{3}{5} > \frac{2}{5}$.

Flip's tip: same bottom number? Compare the tops. Both tops are 1? The **smaller** bottom number is the **bigger** slice.

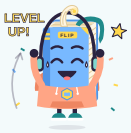
Warm up: draw a ring round the bigger fraction.

$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{1}{10}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{5}{8}$

Grown-ups: use the fraction wall: put a finger on each fraction and ask "Which piece is longer?"

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



Paper strip wall

You need: 4 strips of paper, all the same length (cut from one sheet by a grown-up, or torn along a fold), and a pencil.

1. Keep one strip whole. Write **1 whole** on it.
2. Fold the next strip in half. Open it and write $\frac{1}{2}$ on each part.
3. Fold the next strip in half, then in half again. Write $\frac{1}{4}$ on each part.
4. Fold the last strip in half three times. Write $\frac{1}{8}$ on each part.
5. Line up the strips, one under the other. Which part is biggest? Which is smallest? Fill in the table.

Strip	Equal parts	One part is	Bigger or smaller than $\frac{1}{2}$?

Grown-ups: ask "How many quarters fit on one half?" (2) and "How many eighths?" (4). Seeing that is the start of equivalent fractions.

3 Practise

A. Write <, > or = in each box. Use the fraction wall if you like.

$\frac{1}{3} \square \frac{1}{5}$ $\frac{1}{8} \square \frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{4}{6} \square \frac{5}{6}$

$\frac{2}{10} \square \frac{7}{10}$ $\frac{1}{2} \square \frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{3}{4} \square \frac{1}{4}$

Which slice is bigger?

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B. Put these in order, **smallest first**.

$\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{1}{3}$

$\frac{\square}{\square}$, $\frac{\square}{\square}$, $\frac{\square}{\square}$, $\frac{\square}{\square}$

$\frac{5}{7}$ $\frac{2}{7}$ $\frac{6}{7}$ $\frac{3}{7}$

$\frac{\square}{\square}$, $\frac{\square}{\square}$, $\frac{\square}{\square}$, $\frac{\square}{\square}$

C. Use the fraction wall on page 1. Fill in the missing numbers.

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

D. Ava eats $\frac{1}{3}$ of a cake. Leo eats $\frac{1}{6}$ of the same size cake. Who eats more? How do you know?

E. Draw a ring round every fraction that is equal to $\frac{1}{2}$.

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

Challenge

Sam says, "$\frac{1}{8}$ is bigger than $\frac{1}{2}$, because 8 is bigger than 2." Is he right? Explain, or draw to show.

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ say which fraction is bigger
- ☐ put unit fractions in order
- ☐ use a fraction wall to find equal fractions