



Helping With Math

Comparing Multi-digit Numbers



GRADE 4



Comparing numbers is important so we will know which item is greater or lesser. It is also helpful to know which number is equal to each other.



Which zoo ticket will cost you less money?

Answer: \$9

When we compare numbers, we use the following symbols:

$<$ (less than)

$>$ (greater than)

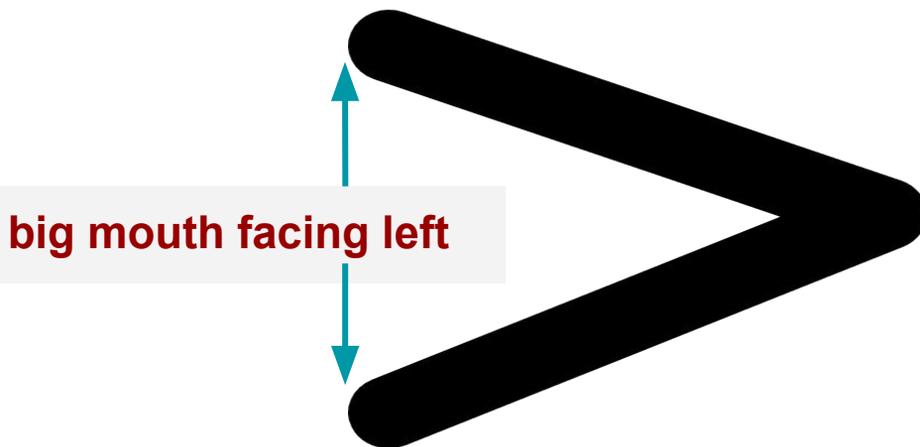
$=$ (equal to)



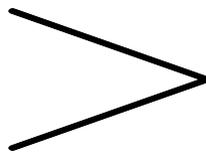
GREATER THAN

In comparing numbers, one may notice that these could either be equal or unequal. Two numbers could be unequal numbers when one quantity is greater or lesser than the other.

The symbol $>$ is read as “**GREATER THAN.**”



1, 435
elephants



256
zebras



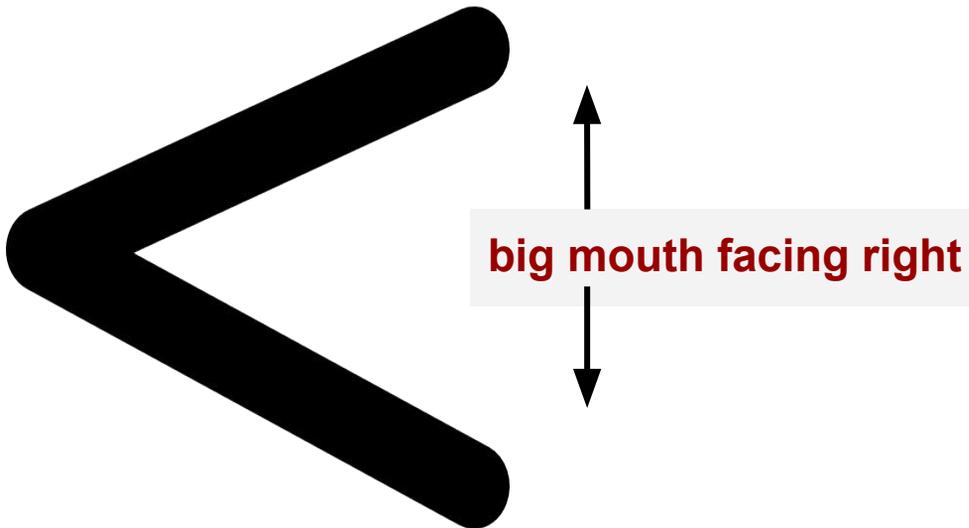
- The greater than symbol is used when the number on the left part of the equation is larger.
- When comparing multi-digit numbers, identify the place value of the numbers. Count the number of digits in the left side of the equation.
- The highest place value of 1, 435 is thousands. The highest place value of 256 is hundreds. Therefore 1, 435 is greater than 256.



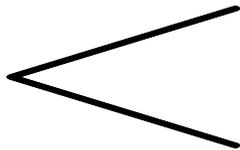
LESS THAN

We use the term “LESS THAN” when we compare unequal numbers.

The symbol $<$ is read as “LESS THAN.”



886
koalas



986
kangaroos



- The “less than” symbol is used when the number on the right part of the equation is larger.
- When the numbers being compared has equal number of digits, check which number is bigger and smaller.
- For example, 886 is less than 986. Both are in hundreds place value, but 8 is less than 9. Therefore, 886 is smaller or less than 986.



EQUAL SIGN

There are also situations when two numbers are of equal when compared. This means that both quantities are the same, or of the same value.

In this case, we use the symbol “equal to.”



3, 457
walrus



3, 457
monkeys



9,015
racoons



9,015
snakes

- When we compare multi-digit numbers with the same place value and same digit, we are comparing equal numbers.
- Just like the example with the walrus and monkeys , racoons and snakes , we say “equal to” when we compare equal numbers.



PRACTICE EXERCISE

Compare the numbers below. Write $<$ $>$ $=$ inside the circle.

208 ○ 208

5,001 ○ 5,301

678 ○ 671

450 ○ 678

991 ○ 991

1,340 ○ 1,330

Comparing Multi-digit Numbers



TABLE OF ACTIVITIES

1. Zoo Animals
2. Feed The Hungry Crocodile
3. Color Coding
4. Of Words and Numbers
5. Cute Little Pandas
6. Thank you, Zoo Keepers
7. Rabbit Hop!
8. Animal Chart
9. Joe, My Friend
10. My Equation



ZOO ANIMALS

Study the numbers below. Shade the corresponding symbol that correctly compares the number of animals in each item.

1.

		
708	705	
>	=	<

2.

		
1,050	2,050	
>	=	<

3.

		
1,208	1,208	
>	=	<

4.

		
2,015	2,020	
>	=	<

5.

		
9,195	9,195	
>	=	<



FEED THE HUNGRY CROCODILE

Feed the hungry crocodile with correct comparison of numbers listed in each meat slice. Use $<$, $>$, or $=$.

1.

444 ____ 444

2.

154 ____ 153

3.

275 ____ 453

4.

9,821 ____ 9,821

5.

351 ____ 351

6.

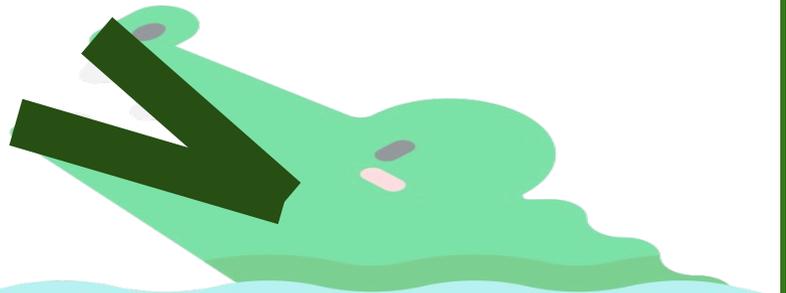
5,916 ____ 5,914

7.

4,818 ____ 4,900

8.

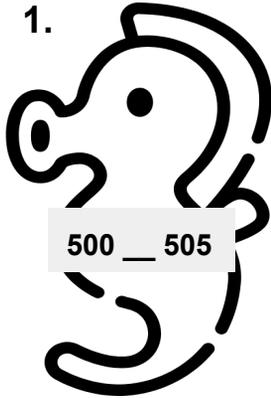
6,430 ____ 5,135



COLOR CODING

Color the fish according to their correct equation. Red for greater than, yellow for less than and pink for equal to.

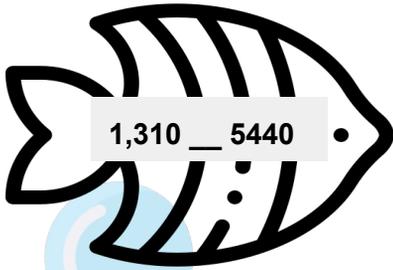
1.



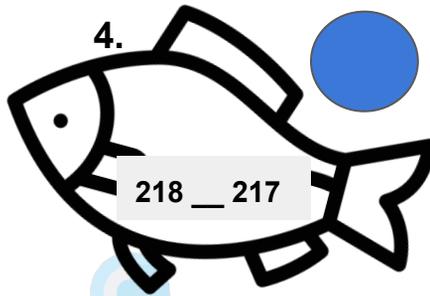
2.



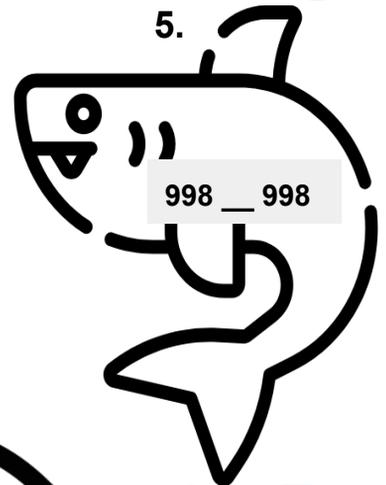
3.



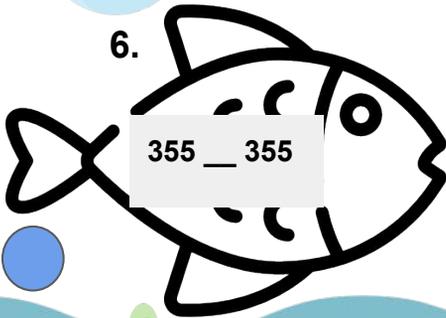
4.



5.



6.



7.



OF WORDS AND NUMBERS

Examine these animals! Write greater than, less than or equal to inside the box.

1. three hundred five zebras
two hundred seven lion

is

2. three thousand five hundred koalas
three thousand five hundred flamingos

is

3. six thousand five hundred eight monkeys
six thousand five hundred two crocodiles

is

4. one hundred eighty-eight turtles
one hundred ninety-two jaguars

is

5. eight hundred thousand elephants
seven hundred thousand horses

is

6. four hundred ninety-nine kangaroos
five hundred one giraffes

is

7. six thousand five racoons
six thousand nine hedgehog

is

8. nine hundred thirty-two snakes
nine hundred thirty-two hippos

is

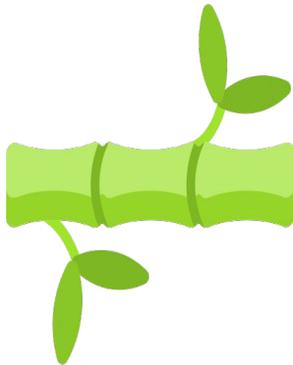


CUTE LITTLE PANDAS

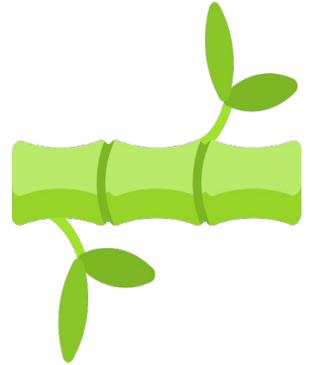
Choose a number listed on the pandas to complete the equations below. Write your answer on the bamboo sticks. You are also encouraged to use all numbers on the pandas.



1. $652 <$



4. $500 =$



2. $> 4,510$



5. $7,513 >$



3. $3,224 =$



6. $< 4,509$



THANK YOU, ZOO KEEPERS

Compare two numbers using $<$ $>$ $=$ from the number bank. Write your answer on the zookeeper's board.

279 777 2,098 3,488 2,098 847 1,095 8,584 650

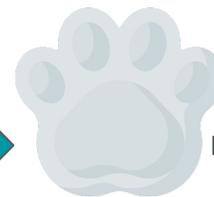
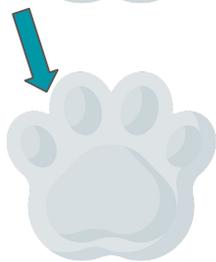
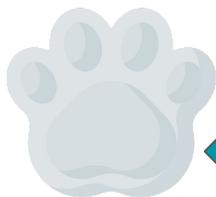
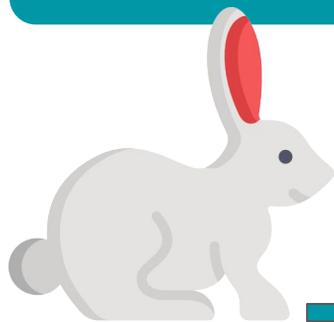
4,801 848 967 777 8,484 4,700 3,488 470

The zookeeper's board consists of two columns of zookeeper icons. Each icon is a stylized human figure wearing a green shirt and a brown hat with a purple band. Below each icon is a vertical stack of four rectangular comparison boards. The boards are connected to the icon by a brown vertical stem. The top board of each stack is connected to the icon's neck. The boards are connected to each other horizontally by a grey bar. The left column has the first board on the left containing the number 777, and the first board on the right containing the number 777. Between these two boards is a grey bar containing an equals sign (=), which is circled in red. The other boards in both columns are empty.



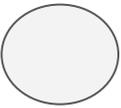
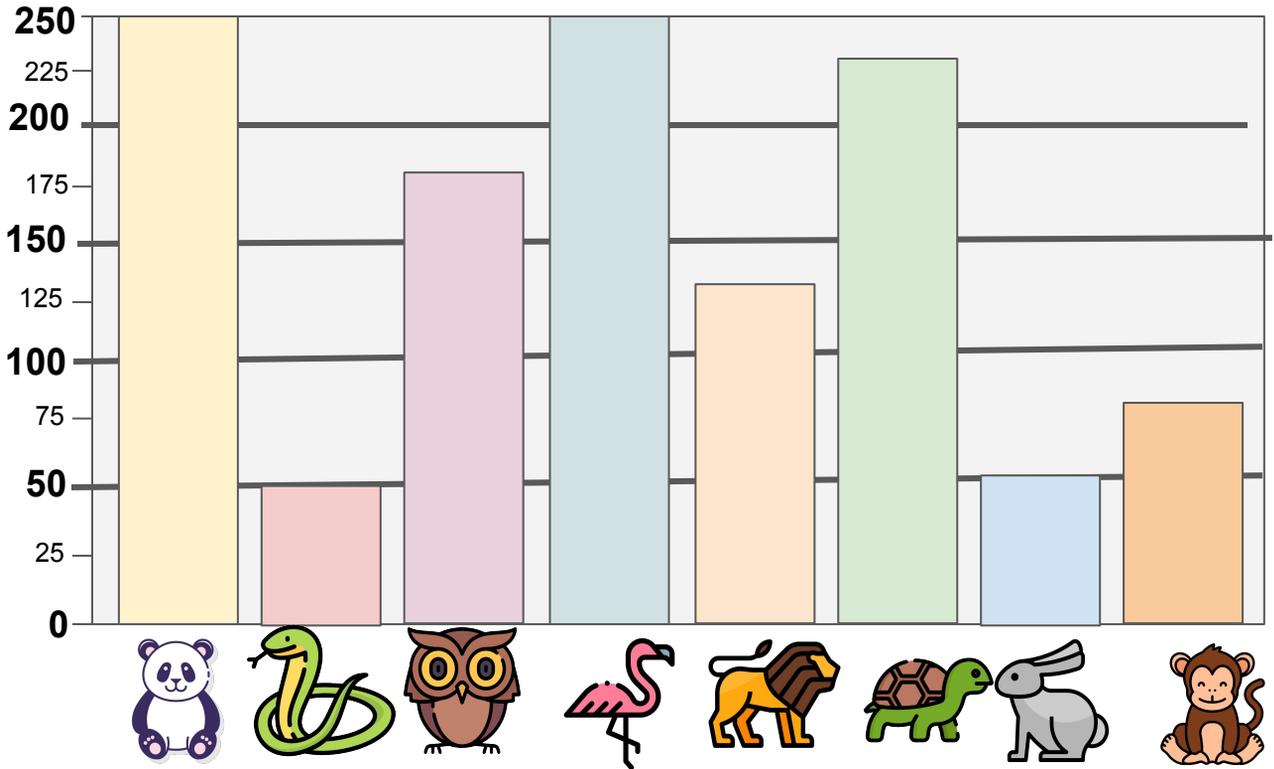
RABBIT HOP!

Look at each group of numbers written on the basket. Write them in order from least to the greatest on the rabbit paws.

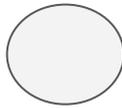


ANIMAL CHART

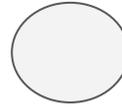
Study the graph below. Write the appropriate symbol in each circle to compare the equation of animals in each item.



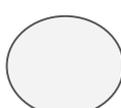
4.



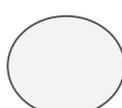
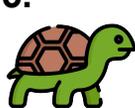
7.



2.



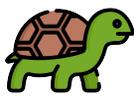
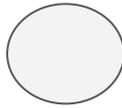
5.



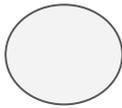
8.



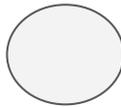
3.



6.



9.



COUNT ME IN!

Identify the total number of the group of animals in each box by using the legend below. Afterwards, compare the two boxes in each item and write the appropriate symbol inside the circle.



= 100



= 20

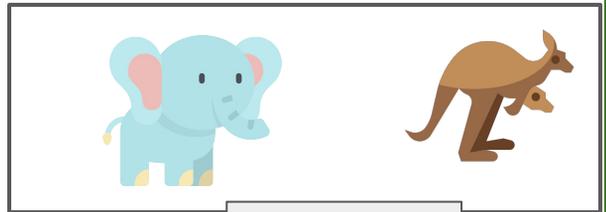
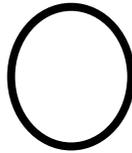


= 1

1.

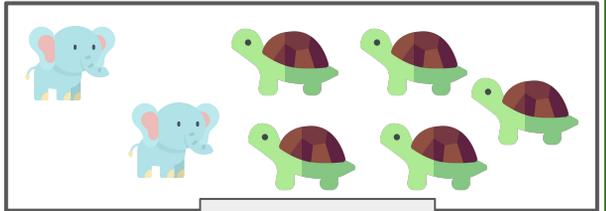
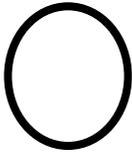
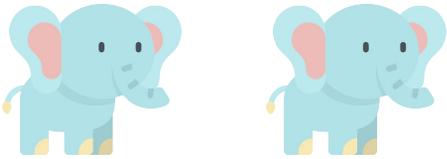


121

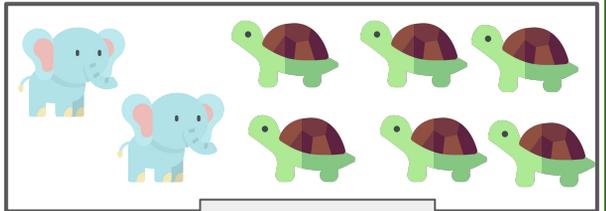
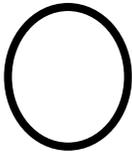
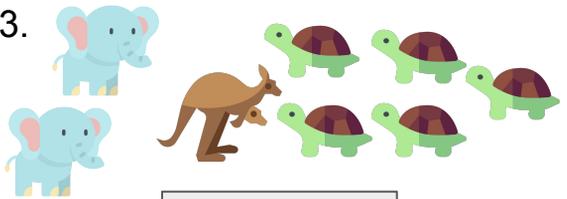


120

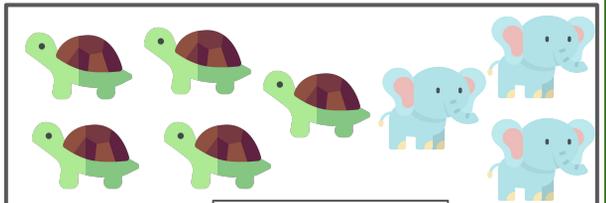
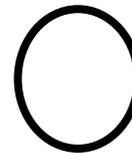
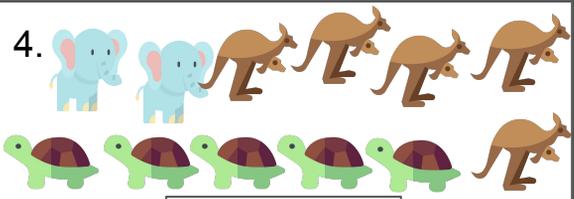
2.



3.

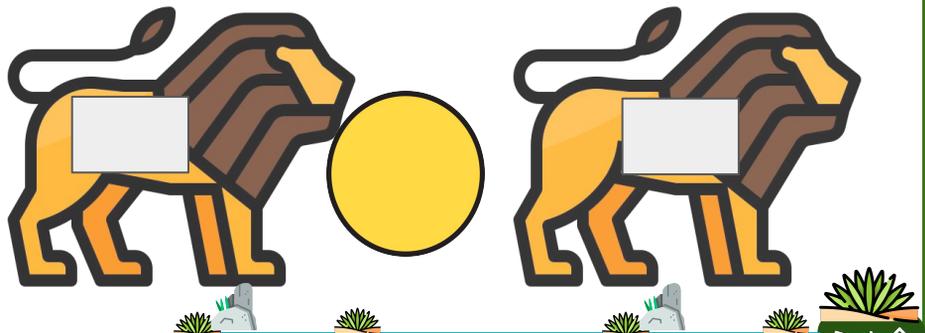
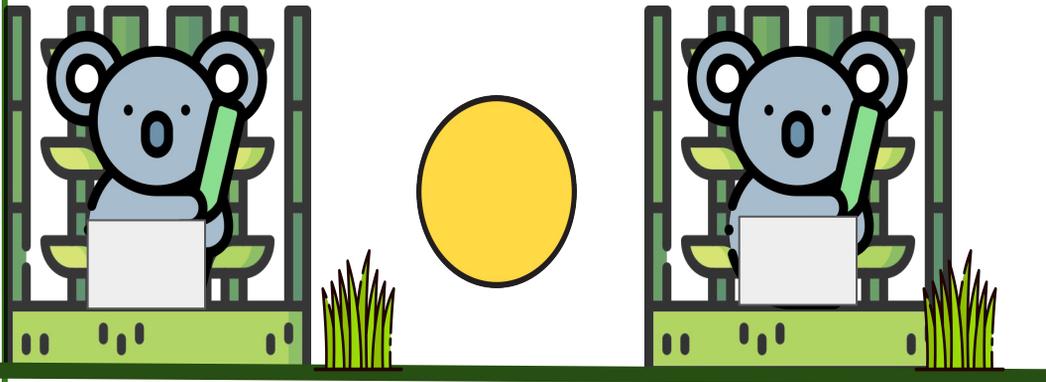
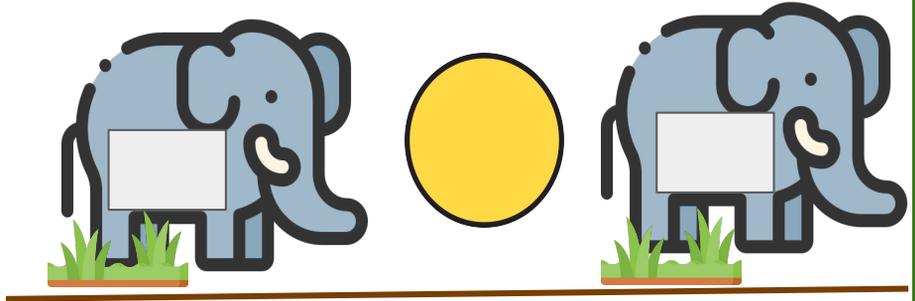
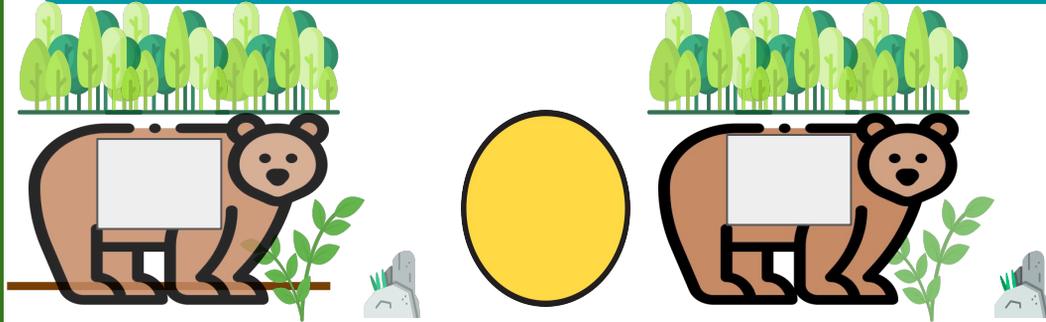


4.



MY EQUATION

Make your own equation by filling in the shapes in each group of animals. Write the symbol that compares the two numbers inside the circle.



ANSWER KEY

Activity 1

1. $>$
2. $<$
3. $=$
4. $<$
5. $=$

Activity 3

1. $500 < 505$
2. $1,231 < 1,238$
3. $1,310 < 5,440$
4. $218 > 217$
5. $998 = 998$
6. $355 = 355$
7. $721 > 223$

Activity 2

1. $444 = 444$
2. $154 > 153$
3. $275 < 453$
4. $9,821 = 9,821$
5. $351 = 351$
6. $5,916 > 5,914$
7. $4,818 < 4,900$
8. $6,430 > 5,135$

Activity 4

1. Greater than
2. Equal to
3. Greater than
4. Less than
5. Greater than
6. Less than
7. Less than
8. Equal to

Activity 5

1. All numbers except 500
2. 4,511
3. 3,224
4. 500
5. All numbers on the choices
6. All numbers except 4,511



ANSWER KEY

Activity 6 (in random order)

Possible answers

$$279 < 967$$

$$650 > 470$$

$$777 = 777$$

$$848 > 847$$

$$1095 < 2098$$

$$3488 = 3488$$

$$4700 < 4801$$

$$8484 < 8584$$

Activity 8

$$1. <$$

$$2. =$$

$$3. <$$

$$4. >$$

$$5. >$$

$$6. <$$

$$7. <$$

$$8. <$$

$$9. =$$

Activity 7

355,360,388,400,454,491,501,579
,585,610,759,899,900,999,1000

Activity 9

$$1. 121 > 120$$

$$2. 200 < 205$$

$$3. 225 > 206$$

$$4. 305 = 305$$

Activity 10

Sample:

$$1. 8621 = 8621$$

$$2. 123 < 456$$

$$3. 1981 > 1980$$

$$4. 543 = 540$$



Copyright Notice

This resource is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/) International license.

You are free to:

- **Share** – copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format
- **Adapt** – remix, transform, and build upon the material

Under the following terms:

- **Attribution** – You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.
- **NonCommercial** – You may not use the material for commercial purposes.

For more information on this license, visit the following link:

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

Where possible, free-use images are sourced from online repositories such as Wikipedia and Wikimedia Commons. References and sources for images are provided in the speaker notes section of this document.

Thank you!



Thank you

Thank you so much for purchasing and downloading this resource.

We hope it has been useful for you in the classroom and that your students enjoy the activities.

For more teaching and homeschooling resources like this, don't forget to [come back](#) and download the new material we add every week!

Thanks for supporting **Helping With Math**. We can provide teachers with low-cost, high-quality teaching and homeschooling resources because of our loyal subscribers and hope to serve you for many years to come.

- The Entire Helping With Math Team :)

