



Describing and ordering fractions

CAPS Statement

Numbers, Operations and Relationships

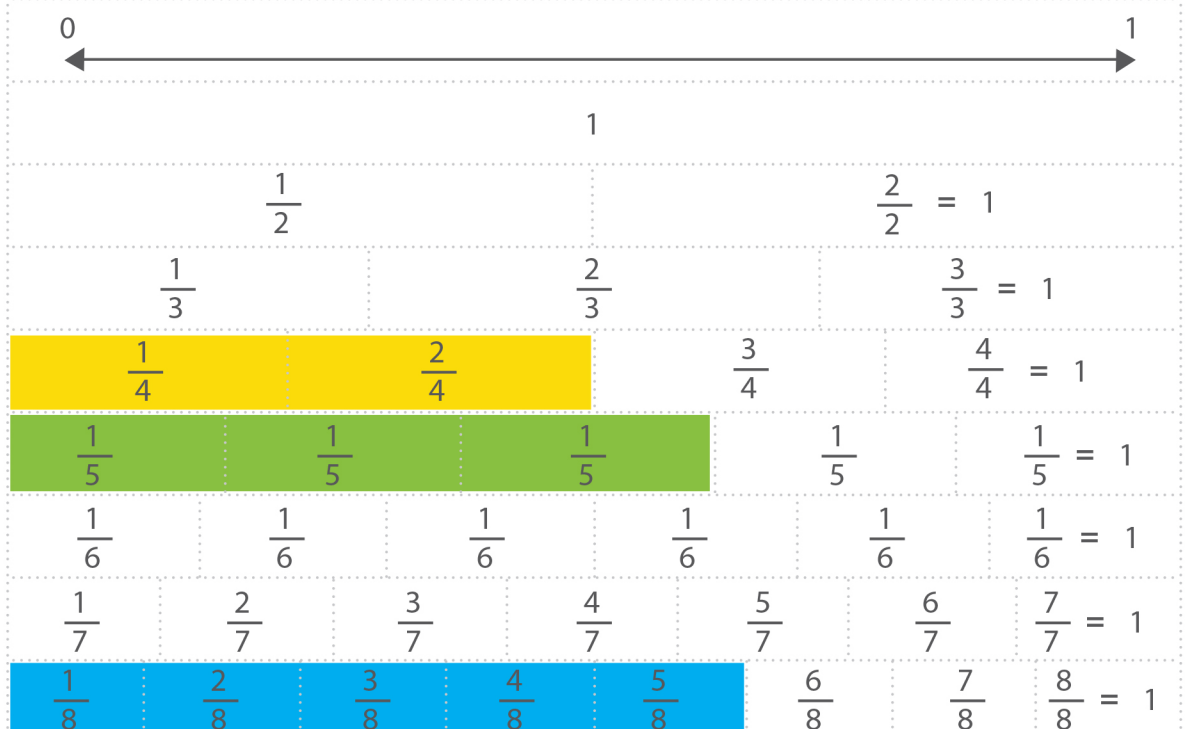
Compare and order common fractions of different denominators (halves, thirds, quarters, fifths, sixths, sevenths, eighths)

Notes

$$\begin{array}{lcl} 6 & \longleftarrow & \text{numerator} \\ \hline 8 & \longleftarrow & \text{denominator} \end{array}$$

All whole numbers can be written as fractions by placing the number over 1: $3 = \frac{3}{1}$, $4 = \frac{4}{1}$. We can pronounce these fractions as three ones (do not say 3 over 1 because we must not treat the numbers as if they are apart) and four ones. Due to this fact, we can handle all numbers as fractions. Let us work with common fractions that are between 0 and 1.

All fractions of halves, thirds, quarters, fifths, sixths, sevenths and eighths



This table of fractions is very practical. From this you can compare different fractions according to the lengths of the blocks, for example $\frac{2}{4}$ (marked in yellow) is smaller than $\frac{3}{5}$ (marked in green).

Activity 1

Select the correct word to make the following statements true. Use the table of fractions on the previous page to help you.

Example

$\frac{5}{8}$ (Marked blue) is greater or smaller than $\frac{2}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{5}$

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|----|---------|----|---------|------|---------------|
| a | $\frac{5}{6}$ | is | greater | or | smaller | than | $\frac{3}{7}$ |
| b | $\frac{5}{6}$ | is | greater | or | smaller | than | $\frac{2}{6}$ |
| c | $\frac{3}{8}$ | is | greater | or | smaller | than | $\frac{1}{3}$ |
| d | $\frac{4}{6}$ | is | greater | or | smaller | than | $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| e | $\frac{2}{7}$ | is | greater | or | smaller | than | $\frac{2}{8}$ |
| f | $\frac{4}{5}$ | is | greater | or | smaller | than | $\frac{3}{7}$ |
| g | $\frac{2}{3}$ | is | greater | or | smaller | than | $\frac{5}{7}$ |
| h | $\frac{4}{8}$ | is | greater | or | smaller | than | $\frac{3}{7}$ |
| i | $\frac{2}{5}$ | is | greater | or | smaller | than | $\frac{3}{4}$ |

Activity 2

Arrange these fractions from smallest to biggest.

Example

$\frac{5}{6}$; $\frac{2}{3}$; $\frac{3}{8}$

Answer: $\frac{3}{8}$; $\frac{2}{3}$; $\frac{5}{6}$

a $\frac{2}{3}$; $\frac{4}{8}$; $\frac{2}{5}$

Answer:

b $\frac{5}{7}$; $\frac{3}{7}$; $\frac{2}{8}$

Answer:

c $\frac{2}{6}$; $\frac{3}{7}$; $\frac{3}{8}$

Answer:

d $\frac{4}{5}$; $\frac{1}{3}$; $\frac{4}{6}$

Answer:



e $\frac{2}{4}$; $\frac{2}{6}$; $\frac{6}{8}$

Answer:

f $\frac{3}{4}$; $\frac{3}{7}$; $\frac{1}{3}$; $\frac{4}{6}$

Answer:

g $\frac{1}{2}$; $\frac{3}{4}$; $\frac{6}{7}$; $\frac{3}{8}$

Answer:

h $\frac{5}{6}$; $\frac{1}{2}$; $\frac{2}{3}$; $\frac{5}{7}$

Answer:

Activity 3

Solve the word problems.

Example

Triston ate 3 slices of a cake that has 8 slices. Write the fraction of the cake that he ate.

The whole cake consists of 8 slices. Therefore, the fraction will be $\frac{3}{8}$

- a Antonio scored 6 marks for a test that counted 8 marks. Write this as a fraction of the whole.

- b Two girls out of a group of five have blonde hair. Write the fraction of girls with blond hair as a whole.

- c In a fruit basket there are 8 pieces of fruit. Three of the pieces are bananas. Write the fraction of bananas as a whole.

- d In your class there are 7 windows. Three of the windows are blue and the rest are green. Write the number of green windows as a fraction of the whole.

Teacher Tip

Use the fraction table consistently so that learners can get use to it. Also encourage them to draw this in their workbooks. This table is very helpful because it compares all the fractions simultaneously from denominator 2 to 8.

