LESSON MAKER PRO

Unit Fraction Detectives

Compare fractions with one equal part.

GRADE 3 · 3.NR.4.2

3.NR.4.2 "Compare two unit fractions by flexibly using a variety of tools and strategies."

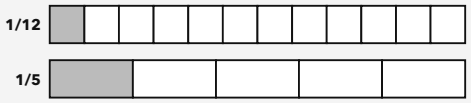
NAME _____ DATE _____

SMALLER DENOMINATOR, LARGER PART

A unit fraction has 1 as its numerator. When the wholes are the same size, the fraction with the smaller denominator is greater because it names fewer, larger equal parts.

WORKED EXAMPLE

Compare 1/12 and 1/5. Write <, >, or =.



1. Both bars show one whole split into equal parts.
2. Fifths make fewer equal parts than twelfths.
3. One fifth is a larger piece than one twelfth.

Answer: 1/12 < 1/5

PRACTICE 6 problems

1 Write <, >, or =. 1/2 ___ 1/6

ANSWER _____

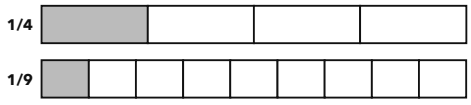
2 Mia says 1/9 is greater than 1/2 because 9 is greater than 2. Is Mia correct? Write the correct comparison and tell why.

ANSWER _____

3 Which fraction is greater, 1/7 or 1/10?

ANSWER _____

4 Use the fraction bars. Write <, >, or =.



ANSWER _____

5 Write <, >, or =. 1/10 ___ 1/7

ANSWER _____

6 Compare 1/6 and 1/8. Write the correct comparison and explain your reasoning.

ANSWER _____

APPLY IT Show your work

1 Kai watered 1/4 of an equal-size garden bed. Tia watered 1/7 of an equal-size garden bed. Who watered a greater fraction of a bed?

WORK SPACE

ANSWER _____

2 Luis used 1/9 of an equal-size sticker sheet. Priya used 1/11 of an equal-size sticker sheet. Who used a greater fraction of a sheet?

WORK SPACE

ANSWER _____

CHALLENGE One step up

Put these unit fractions in order from least to greatest: 1/3, 1/8, 1/11. Then explain how you know.

WORK SPACE AND ANSWER

ANSWER KEY

Unit Fraction Detectives

GRADE 3 · 3.NR.4.2

PART 1 · PRACTICE

#	PROBLEM	ANSWER
1	Write <, >, or =. 1/2 ___ 1/6	**1/2 > 1/6**
2	Mia says 1/9 is greater than 1/2 because 9 is greater than 2. Is Mia correct? Write the correct comparison and tell why.	**No. 1/9 < 1/2 because ninths are smaller pieces than halves.**
3	Which fraction is greater, 1/7 or 1/10?	**1/7**
4	Use the fraction bars. Write <, >, or =.	**1/4 > 1/9**
5	Write <, >, or =. 1/10 ___ 1/7	**1/10 < 1/7**
6	Compare 1/6 and 1/8. Write the correct comparison and explain your reasoning.	**1/6 > 1/8 because sixths are larger pieces than eighths.**

PART 2 · APPLY IT

1. **Kai watered a greater fraction.** Compare 1/4 and 1/7. Fourths are larger pieces than sevenths, so 1/4 > 1/7.
2. **Luis used a greater fraction.** Compare 1/9 and 1/11. Ninths are larger pieces than elevenths, so 1/9 > 1/11.

CHALLENGE

1/11 < 1/8 < 1/3. For unit fractions, a larger denominator means smaller equal parts.

Accept comparison statements written with words instead of symbols when they are correct. For explanations, accept any clear statement that the same whole is split into fewer or more equal parts.