

Comparing Bigger Numbers

2nd Grade

Compare from the left, and stop at the first difference.

You never need to look at every digit. Work left to right and stop as soon as they differ.

COUNT THE DIGITS

1

More digits always wins. 1,000 beats 999 without any comparing.

COMPARE THE HUNDREDS

2

Different? You already have your answer. Stop.

IF EQUAL, GO TO THE TENS

3

Only if the hundreds match.

THEN THE ONES

4

Last resort. Most comparisons never get here.

WORKED

472 vs 419 → hundreds tie, $7 > 1$, so $472 > 419$

308 vs 380 → hundreds tie, $0 < 8$, so $308 < 380$

The leftmost digit carries the most value, so it decides first.