

Compare Whole Numbers



Dear Family,

This week your child is learning how to compare whole numbers.

Your child can use a place-value chart to compare multi-digit numbers. For example, this place-value chart can be used to compare 39,521 and 39,743.

Ten Thousands	Thousands	Hundreds	Tens	Ones
3	9	5	2	1
3	9	7	4	3

To compare the two numbers in the place-value chart above, look down each column in the chart. Start at the left column and compare the digits in each column.

The ten-thousands digits are the same.

The thousands digits are the same.

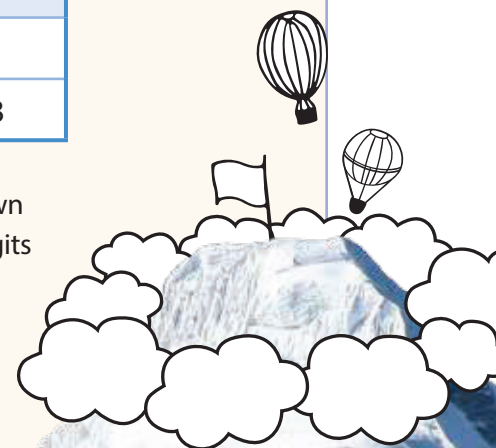
The hundreds digits are different.

Because 5 hundreds is less than 7 hundreds, the top number, 39,521, is less than the bottom number, 39,743.

Your child is learning to use a symbol to write the comparison:

$$39,521 < 39,743$$

Invite your child to share what he or she knows about comparing whole numbers by doing the following activity together.



ACTIVITY COMPARE WHOLE NUMBERS

Do this activity with your child to compare whole numbers.

Famous mountains around the world have the following heights:

Mount Kilimanjaro: 19,341 feet

K2 (mountain in Asia): 28,251 feet

Mount Everest: 29,035 feet

Denali: 20,310 feet

- Have your child read aloud the mountain heights.
- Ask your child to compare the heights. Encourage your child to use comparison words and symbols as shown in the table below.

symbol	<	>	=
meaning	is less than	is greater than	is equal to

For example, your child could say: *The height of Mount Everest is greater than the height of Denali.*

Or he or she could write $29,035 > 20,310$.

Look for other real-life opportunities to compare numbers with your child.

