

COMPARING DIGIT BY DIGIT

- 1 Line the numbers up in the Th H T U columns.
- 2 Thousands and hundreds match ($4 = 4$, $2 = 2$), so move right.
- 3 Tens differ: $6 > 0$, so this column decides.
- 4 $4,260 > 4,209$.

Th	H	T	U
4	2	6	0
4	2	0	9

WARM-UP

Write each number one digit per cell on the place-value mat, then compare down the columns from the left.

Th	H	T	U

1. In the first two rows, write 3,472 above 3,418, then circle the tens column that decides and write $<$ or $>$ between them.
2. In the next two rows, write 2,995 above 3,004, then circle the thousands column that decides and write $<$ or $>$ between them.
3. In the last two rows, write 6,140 above 6,104, then circle the tens column that decides and write $<$ or $>$ between them.

PRACTICE

- 1 Croke Park sold **3,000** tickets for the hurling final and **800** for the minor game. Write $<$ or $>$ between **3,000** and **800** to show which crowd was bigger.
- 2 One GAA county ground took **5,400** fans and another took **5,700**. Write $<$ or $>$ between **5,400** and **5,700** to show the bigger crowd.
- 3 Two hurling matches on the same weekend drew **5,360** and **5,309** fans. Write $<$ or $>$ between **5,360** and **5,309** and underline the deciding column.

SPOT THE MISTAKE

Niamh compares 4,260 and 4,209 like this:

Both start with 4.
Look at the units: $0 < 9$, so $4,260 < 4,209$.

Niamh checked the wrong column. Which number is greater, and why?

Explain _____ Answer

REFLECT

When two numbers look almost the same, which column decides for you first?