

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 **4,000** tickets for the hurling final and **900** for the minor game. Write $<$ or $>$ between **4,000** and **900** to show which crowd was bigger.
- 2 One GAA county ground took **6,300** fans and another took **6,800**. Write $<$ or $>$ between **6,300** and **6,800** 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 8,350 and 8,317 like this:

Both start with 8 thousands and 3 hundreds.
Look at the units: $0 < 7$, so $8,350 < 8,317$.

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?