

Comparing positive and negative numbers

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

On a number line, **smaller numbers sit to the left**. So a negative number is always **less** than any positive number, and a number closer to zero is bigger than one further from zero on the negative side.

→ $-3 < 2$ (-3 is to the left of 2).

→ $-1 > -5$ (-1 is closer to zero, so bigger).

→ $0 > -7$ (zero beats every negative number).

ANSWER KEY

a) $<$ (-3 sits left of 2).

b) $>$ (-1 is closer to 0 than -5).

c) $>$ (0 beats any negative).

d) $<$ (-4 is further left than -2).

e) $>$ (any positive beats any negative).

f) $<$ (any negative is below 4).

Q1: $-10 < -4 < 4 < 6$

Q2: $-10 < -1 < 9 < 15$

Q3: $-4.1 < 0.1 < 2.9 < 4.8$

Q4: $-4.7 < 0.1 < 6.7 < 8.3$

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: $-4.6 < 2.6 < 2.7 < 9$

S2: $-1 < 7 < 8 < 14$

S3: $-9 < 12 < 14 < 15$