

Comparing numbers to 1,000 digit-by-digit

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

To compare two numbers to 1000, look at the hundreds digits first, then tens, then units to see which is bigger or smaller.

→ 366 and 372: hundreds match so tens decide 372 is bigger.

→ 605 and 650: hundreds match, tens decide 650 is bigger.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

COMPARE 412 AND 421

- 1 Write the numbers: 412 and 421.
- 2 Hundreds digits are the same (both 4).
- 3 Look at tens: 1 is less than 2 so 412 is smaller.

DISCUSSION STARTER

REFLECT When two numbers look alike, which column do you check first to decide which is bigger?

ANSWER KEY

c) 700

Q1: 154

Q2: $402 < 420$

Q3: $245 > 198$

Q4: $730 > 703$

a) Sometimes — It decides only if the hundreds digits differ.

b) Always — That is the rule for comparing digit by digit.

c) Never — Starting at units can give the wrong result when hundreds differ.

d) Always — Any three-digit number is bigger than any two-digit number under 1000.