

Ordering simple fractions

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

When fractions share the same bottom number the whole is cut into equal pieces of one size. Order them by the top numbers: the smaller top number is the smaller fraction.

→ $1/5$, $2/5$, $4/5$ climb from least to most

→ $2/8$ is smaller than $5/8$ because 2 is less than 5

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

ORDER THE EIGHTHS

- 1 Look at the three strips: two eighths, five eighths and seven eighths.
- 2 All bottoms are 8 so every piece is the same size.
- 3 Compare only the top numbers: **2**, **5** and **7**.
- 4 2 is least, then 5, then 7 is most.
- 5 Smallest to biggest is therefore $2/8$, $5/8$, $7/8$.

DISCUSSION STARTER

REFLECT When fractions share the same bottom number, how do you tell which is bigger?

ANSWER KEY

a) $1/5$, $2/5$, $4/5$

b) $1/8$, $4/8$, $6/8$

c) $1/4$, $2/4$, $3/4$

Q1: $1/5$, $2/5$, $4/5$

Q2: $1/5$, $3/5$, $4/5$

a) **Always** — Same-size pieces mean more pieces always make a bigger amount.

b) **Always** — Matching bottoms keep every piece equal so only the count of pieces matters.

c) **Always** — Fewer equal pieces always give the least total.

d) **Never** — Different counts of identical pieces can never be the same size.

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

Investigation: Jumps on the fraction line — open-ended; scan pupils' working for valid solution paths rather than a single answer.