

Comparing fractions

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

To compare two fractions, look at how much of the whole each one covers. When the parts are the same size, the fraction with more parts covers more.

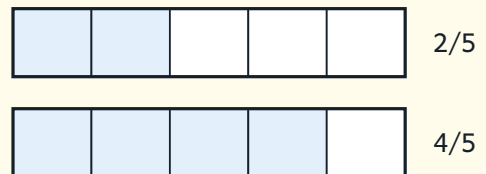
→ Three fifths reaches further than two fifths, so three fifths is more.

→ Three quarters is more than one half; one third is less than one half.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

COMPARING SAME-DENOMINATOR FRACTIONS

- 1 Both strips are divided into 5 equal parts.
- 2 One strip has 2 parts shaded and the other has 4 parts shaded.
- 3 4 is more than 2, so $\frac{4}{5}$ reaches further.



DISCUSSION STARTER

REFLECT When the bottom numbers differ, what helps you decide which fraction is larger?

ANSWER KEY

a) $\frac{3}{4}$

b) $\frac{4}{5}$

c) $\frac{4}{5}$

Q1: more than

Q2: more than

Q3: more than

a) **Always** — Lesson teaches that when parts are the same size, more parts means the fraction covers more.

b) **Always** — Explicit lesson example: one third is less than one half.

c) **Sometimes** — $\frac{3}{4}$ is more than a half but $\frac{1}{4}$ is less, so it depends on the fraction.

d) **Always** — Same size fifths; more parts cover more, as in the worked example.

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: $\frac{3}{4} > \frac{7}{12}$

S2: $\frac{1}{2} > \frac{2}{5}$

S3: $\frac{3}{4} < \frac{11}{12}$

S4: $\frac{3}{4} < \frac{7}{8}$

S5: $\frac{11}{12} > \frac{1}{10}$