

Ordering fractions

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

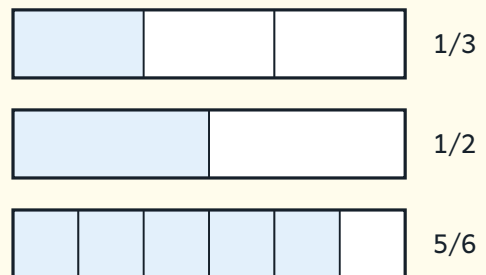
To order three or more fractions, compare them one at a time and line them up from smallest to largest. One half is a handy marker: any fraction smaller than a half comes before it, any fraction bigger comes after.

- One quarter, one half, three quarters from smallest to largest.
- Two fifths is less than a half, four fifths is more than a half.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

ORDERING FRACTIONS

- 1 Shade each fraction on its own equal-width strip.
- 2 One third stops short of half way, so it is smaller than **one half**.
- 3 Five sixths goes past half way, so it is larger than **one half**.
- 4 Read left to right: **one third, one half, five sixths**.



DISCUSSION STARTER

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

ANSWER KEY

c) $1/3, 1/2, 5/6$

Q1: $1/4, 1/2, 3/4$

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** — $3/4$ is more than a half but $1/4$ 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: $2/5 < 2/3 < 7/8 < 11/12$

S2: $3/5 < 7/10 < 4/5 < 7/8$

S3: $1/12 < 7/12 < 3/5 < 9/10$

S4: $1/8 < 1/4 < 1/2 < 9/10$

S5: $3/5 < 4/5 < 7/8$