

Comparing Fractions

- using $<$ (less than), $>$ (greater than), $=$ (equal to)

- When there is a common numerator the larger the denominator the smaller the fraction is.

$$\frac{1}{2} > \frac{1}{4}$$



- When there is a common denominator the fraction with the most units is the largest. (larger numerator)

$$\frac{1}{4} < \frac{3}{4}$$



- When there is no common denominator or common numerator you can:

① Find a common denominator by making equivalent fractions

$$\frac{3}{5} < \frac{2}{3}$$

- List multiples for each denominator
- Identify the lowest common multiple (LCM)

Multiples of 5: 5, 10, 15, 20

Multiples of 3: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18

LCM

- Multiply each fraction to equal the LCM

- Remember to do the same to both the numerator and denominator

$$\frac{3 \times 3}{5 \times 3} = \frac{9}{15}$$

$$\frac{2 \times 5}{3 \times 5} = \frac{10}{15}$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{9}{15} < \frac{10}{15} \quad \text{so} \quad \frac{3}{5} < \frac{2}{3}$$