Name _____   Date _____

Comparing 3 Digit Numbers - Step-by-Step Lesson

Lesson 1 Comparison >, <, or =

Compare the following numbers using the symbols >, <, or =.

a.

Hundreds	Tens	Ones		Hundreds	Tens	Ones
4	7	5	_____	4	7	5

b.

Hundreds	Tens	Ones		Hundreds	Tens	Ones
8	9	7	_____	7	3	1

c.

Hundreds	Tens	Ones		Hundreds	Tens	Ones
2	6	6	_____	2	8	0

Explanation:

Understand what the symbols mean.

The greater than sign is '>'.
The lesser than sign is '<'.
The equal to sign is '='.

When the numbers are not equal, the arrow always points to the smaller number. A good strategy is to look for equal numbers, if they are not equal just point the arrow towards the smaller of the two numbers.

When looking at the size of the number always start at the far left and then move to the right.
For example:

Hundreds	Tens	Ones
4	7	5
Start Here		**End Here**

a.

Hundreds	Tens	Ones		Hundreds	Tens	Ones
4	7	5	_____	4	7	5

As we move left to right all the numbers are the same. The numbers are **equal**.

475 = 475

b.

Hundreds	Tens	Ones		Hundreds	Tens	Ones
8	9	7	_____	**7**	3	1

When we look at the hundreds place value 8 is bigger than 7. This means that 897 is greater than 731. As we said, point the arrow towards the smaller number (731).

897 > 731

c.

Hundreds	Tens	Ones		Hundreds	Tens	Ones
2	6	6	_____	2	8	0

The hundreds place is the same (2), so we move to the tens place. 6 is less than 8. So 266 is less than 280. Point the arrow to the smaller number (266).

266 < 280