Compare Decimals - Step-by-Step Lesson

Compare the decimals below by using >, <, or = symbols.

 A. 0.587 _____ 0.489

 B. 1.471 _____ 1.582

 C. 4.444 _____ 4.444

Explanation:

Step 1) First, look what is being asked.

Step 2) We have to compare with the signs >, <, or =

Step 3) Use a place value chart for solving the questions.

 A. 0.587 > 0.489

ones	.	tenths	hundredths	thousandths
0	.	5	8	7
0	.	4	8	9

Compare the digits, starting with the highest place value. The ones digits are the same. The tenths digits are different. The tenths digit in 0.587 is greater than the tenths digit in 0.489.

0.587 is greater than 0.489.

Use the greater-than sign.

0.587 > 0.489

B. Use the same strategy here:

ones	.	tenths	hundredths	thousandths
1	.	4	7	1
1	.	5	8	2

Compare the digits, starting with the highest place value. The ones digits are the same. The tenths digits are different. The tenths digit in 1.471 is smaller than the tenths digit in 1.582.

1.471 is smaller than 1.582.

Use the smaller-than sign.

1.471   <   1.582

C. Once again, compare the integers at each place value:

ones	.	tenths	hundredths	thousandths
4	.	4	4	4
4	.	4	4	4

Compare the digits, starting with the highest place value. All digits are the same. 4.444 is equal to 4.444.

Use the equal sign.

4.444   =   4.444