3rd Grade: Comparing Fractions

When two fractions have the same denominator, the numerator tells you which is more and which is less.

These fractions are built from the unit fraction 1/6. So, the fraction with the most parts in the numerator is more.

4/6 is more than 2/6 because 4 parts is more than 2 parts when all the parts are equal to 1/6 of the whole.





If two fractions have the same numerator, then the denominator can tell you which fraction is larger.

Compare the denominators of 1/3 and 1/8. When something is cut into 3 equal pieces, the pieces are larger than if the object is cut into 8 equal pieces. When there are fewer parts, each part is bigger.

So, 1/3 is greater than 1/8.

This also shows that 2/3 is greater than 2/8, since 2 big pieces is more than 2 small pieces.

