Grade 3: Fraction Comparisons

3.NF.A.3 - Explain equivalence of fractions in special cases and compare fractions by reasoning about their size.


Check the boxes to mark each statement True or False.

	TRUE	FALSE
$1 < \dfrac{6}{6}$	☐	☐
$\dfrac{1}{3} < \dfrac{1}{4}$	☐	☐
$\dfrac{3}{8} < \dfrac{6}{8}$	☐	☐
$\dfrac{2}{2} < 2$	☐	☐

Solution

Correct if student checks False, False, True, True.

- $1 = {}^{6}/_{6}$, so the statement is False.
- ${}^{1}/_{3} > {}^{1}/_{4}$, so the statement is False.
- ${}^{3}/_{8} < {}^{6}/_{8}$, so the statement is True.
- ${}^{2}/_{2} < 2$, so the statement is True.

Most grade 3 students will draw a diagram to help with at least some of these comparisons. For example, this diagram shows that $3/8 < 6/8$ (because $3/8$ is located to the left of $6/8$ on a number line, or because 3 copies of the orange piece make a lesser amount than 6 copies of the orange piece):
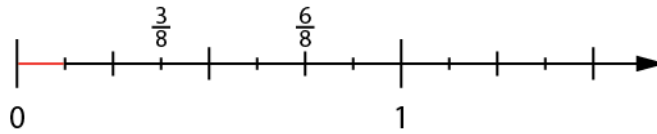
Students might answer at least some of the questions without a picture by using their conceptual understanding of fractions. Here are some examples of reasoning that would explain each comparison:

- $1 = 6/6$: To make a part of size $1/6$, you divide 1 into 6 equal parts. Therefore 6 parts of size $1/6$ make 1. (Note: $6/6$ means 6 parts of size $1/6$.)
- $1/3 > 1/4$: If you divide 1 into 3 equal parts, each part ($1/3$) is going to be greater than if you were to divide 1 into 4 equal parts ($1/4$). (The same whole divided into more parts means each part is smaller.)
- $3/8 < 6/8$: Divide 1 into 8 equal parts. Three of those parts will be a lesser amount than six of those parts.
- $2/2 < 2$: The reasoning that showed $6/6 = 1$ also shows that $2/2 = 1$. And 1 is less than 2.

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https://bealearninghero.org/readiness-check

Name: _____

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