

Targeting Instruction for Ordering Fractions: Strategic Sequence of Card Sets

This sequence of card sets is designed to support students in building their abilities to compare and order fractions. To provide an accessible entryway for students, the sequence begins with fractions with the same denominator and then increases in level of challenge. There are two card sets for each level: 1) groups of fractions with the same denominator; 2) groups of fractions with the same numerator; and 3) groups of fractions with different denominators and numerators. We have also provided an optional set of cards with benchmark numbers for students to use as a comparison strategy.

Suggestions for Using the Card Sets:

Choose the fraction sets that fit your students' needs and then copy and cut card sets for students to use in pairs or individually. It's helpful for students to be able to move the cards around and easily change their sequence as they figure out the correct order. Another option is for students to position the fraction cards on a large number line.

The fraction sets can be used for a variety of ordering activities and combined with different manipulatives and visual representations. For example, students can represent and order the fractions by: a) folding and shading fraction strips; b) using fraction manipulatives, such as circles or bars; c) locating the fractions on number lines; d) making drawings of the fractions; or e) picturing the fractions in their minds. In addition, the card sets can be used for ordering activities that focus on numeric representations of fractions, such as making comparisons to benchmark numbers ($\frac{1}{2}$, 1) to determine the relative sizes of the fractions.

Card Sets 1a and 1b: The fractions in each set all have the same denominator.

Card Set 1a	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{5}{8}$
	1a	1a	1a
Card Set 1b	$\frac{4}{5}$	$\frac{2}{5}$	$\frac{3}{5}$
	1b	1b	1b

Strategic Sequence of Card Sets

Card Sets 2a and 2b: The fractions in each set all have the same numerator.

Card Ste 2a	$\frac{1}{3}$ 2a	$\frac{1}{5}$ 2a	$\frac{1}{4}$ 2a
Card Set 2b	$\frac{3}{10}$ 2b	$\frac{3}{5}$ 2b	$\frac{3}{8}$ 2b

Strategic Sequence of Card Sets

Card Sets 3a, 3b, and 3c: All of the fractions in each set have different numerators and denominators. When ordered from least to greatest, the denominators will not be in descending order, and the numerators will not be in ascending order.

Card Set 3a	$\frac{5}{8}$ 3a	$\frac{3}{10}$ 3a	$\frac{2}{6}$ 3a
Card Set 3b	$\frac{1}{4}$ 3b	$\frac{2}{12}$ 3b	$\frac{3}{5}$ 3b
Card Set 3c	$\frac{6}{10}$ 3c	$\frac{7}{8}$ 3c	$\frac{3}{4}$ 3c

Strategic Sequence of Card Sets

Optional Set of Benchmark Numbers

Students can use these cards to compare the fractions to benchmark numbers. We suggest printing them on a different color paper than the other cards, so they stand out.

Benchmark Set	<p>How do the fractions compare to this benchmark number?</p> <p>0</p>	<p>How do the fractions compare to this benchmark number?</p> <p>$\frac{1}{2}$</p>	<p>How do the fractions compare to this benchmark number?</p> <p>1</p>
Benchmark Set	<p>Choose your own benchmark number to use for comparing fractions.</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Choose your own benchmark number to use for comparing fractions.</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Choose your own benchmark number to use for comparing fractions.</p> <p>_____</p>