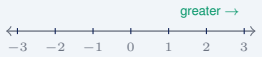
Comparing and Ordering Integers

Name: _____	Date: _____	Score: _____ / 18

Quick Review and Helpful Hints

On a number line, values *increase to the right*. Every positive number is greater than every negative number. For two negatives, the one *closer to zero* is greater (so $-2 > -8$). Use $<$, $>$, or $=$ to compare.

▷ **Example:** Which is greater, -3 or -7? **Work:** On the number line, -3 sits to the right of -7 (closer to 0), so it is larger. ★ **Answer:** -3



Larger values lie to the right.

Practice Problems

Compare with $<$, $>$, or $=$, or order as directed.

1. -3 ___ 5

2. -2 ___ -8

3. 0 ___ -1

4. -10 ___ -4

5. 7 ___ -7

6. -5 ___ -5

7. Greater of -6 and -2

8. Least of $-3, -9, -1$

9. Greatest of $-4, 0, -8$

10. Order $-2, 3, -5$ least to greatest

11. -100 ___ -99

12. Greater of 0 and -50

13. Least of $5, -5, 2, -2$

14. -1 ___ 1

Word Problems

15. Which temperature is warmer (greater): $-3°$F or $-8°$F?

16. Order from coldest to warmest: $2, -4, -1$.

17. Which is deeper (more negative): -20 ft or -35 ft?

18. Compare a debt of -50 and a debt of -20: which number is greater?

Answer Keys

1. $<$	**7.** -2	**13.** -5
2. $>$	**8.** -9	**14.** $<$
3. $>$	**9.** 0	**15.** -3
4. $<$	**10.** $-5, -2, 3$	**16.** $-4, -1, 2$
5. $>$	**11.** $<$	**17.** -35
6. $=$	**12.** 0	**18.** -20

Step-by-Step Explanations

1. Start by naming the process: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Think of the number line: numbers get larger as you move right. -3 is to the left of 5, so the correct comparison is $-3 < 5$. So the final answer is $<$.

2. A good way to think about this is: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is For two negative numbers, the one closer to 0 is greater because it is farther right. -2 is closer to 0 than -8, so $-2 > -8$. So the final answer is $>$.

3. Step by step: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is 0 is greater than any negative number because it sits to the right of all negatives on the number line. Therefore $0 > -1$. So the final answer is $>$.

4. Take it one move at a time: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Both numbers are negative, so compare their positions: -10 is farther left than -4. Farther left means smaller, so $-10 < -4$. So the final answer is $<$.

5. Start by naming the process: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is A positive number is always greater than a negative number. Since 7 is positive and -7 is negative, $7 > -7$. So the final answer is $>$.

6. The two numbers are exactly the same point on the number line. When values match, use the equal sign: $-5 = -5$.

7. Step by step: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is To find the greater negative number, choose the one closer to 0. Since -2 is closer to 0 than -6, the greater number is -2. So the final answer is -2.

8. Take it one move at a time: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Least means smallest, or farthest left on the number line. Among $-3, -9, -1, -9$ is farthest left, so it is least. So the final answer is -9.

9. Start by naming the process: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Zero is greater than any negative number because negatives are left of 0. So among $-4, 0, -8$, the greatest value is 0. So the final answer is 0.

10. A good way to think about this is: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Least to greatest means list from left to right on the number line. The order is -5 first, then -2, then 3. So the final answer is $-5, -2, 3$.

11. Step by step: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is With negative numbers, the number with the larger absolute size is actually smaller. -100 is farther left than -99, so $-100 < -99$. So the final answer is $<$.

12. Take it one move at a time: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Zero is greater than a negative number because 0 is to the right of negative values. Between 0 and -50, the greater number is 0. So the final answer is 0.

13. Start by naming the process: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Least means the smallest value, not the smallest absolute value. Of $5, -5, 2, -2, -5$ is farthest left, so it is least. So the final answer is -5.

14. A good way to think about this is: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is -1 is a negative number and 1 is positive. Since every negative is less than every positive, $-1 < 1$. So the final answer is $<$.

15. Step by step: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Warmer temperature means the greater number on the number line. Since -3 is closer to 0 and to the right of -8, $-3°$F is warmer. So the final answer is -3.

16. Take it one move at a time: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Coldest to warmest means least to greatest. The most negative temperature, $-4°$, comes first, then $-1°$, then $2°$. So the final answer is $-4, -1, 2$.

17. Start by naming the process: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Deeper below the surface means a more negative elevation. Since -35 is farther below 0 than -20, -35 ft is deeper. So the final answer is -35.

18. A good way to think about this is: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is For debts, the greater number is the one closer to zero because it represents owing less. Since -20 is closer to 0 than -50, -20 is greater. So the final answer is -20.

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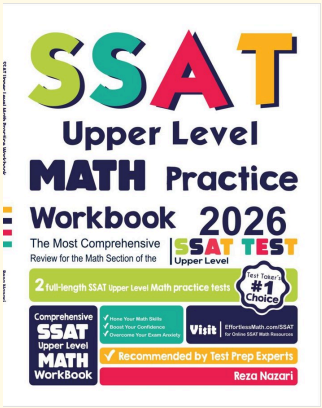

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