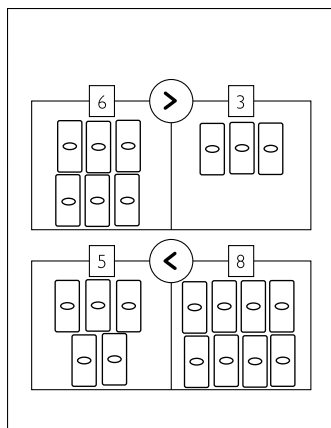# 10. Introduction to Inequality Signs

- COMPARE TWO NUMBERS
- USE INEQUALITY SIGNS

STUDENT NEEDS:
20 single blocks
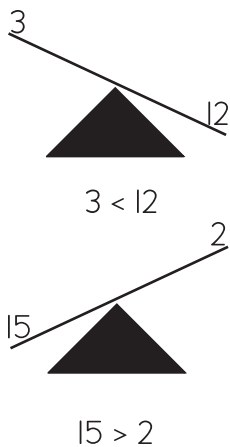worksheets
scissors

◑ 25 minutes

HELPFUL HINTS:
Tape the inequality flashcards to the board with an example for each that the students can use as a reference.
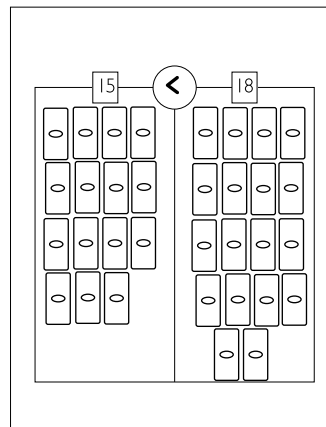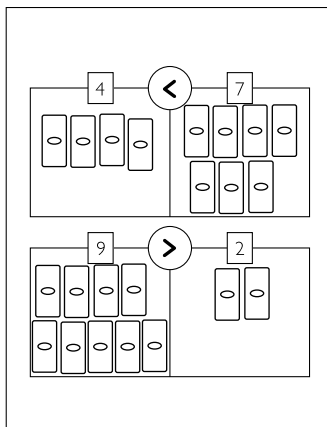
Students may draw the blocks in any configuration. Some may wish to draw in a ten-frame configuration.

If you have a balance scale, use it with the blocks to demonstrate the concept.

3 < 12

15 > 2

GROUP ACTIVITY:

1. Place 3 blocks in one group and 8 blocks in another group.
2. As a class, count the blocks in each group.
3. Ask which group has more blocks (8).
4. Introduce the inequality signs (< and >) by showing the flashcards. It may be helpful to compare the inequality signs to alligator mouths and ask, "If you were a really hungry alligator and these blocks were food, which group would you rather eat?"
5. Show the class which way the inequality sign should be positioned between the group of 3 and the group of 8. Write "3 < 8" on the board. Have students practice reading from left to right, "Three is less than eight."
6. Repeat using different examples: "ten is greater than six" (10>6), "four is less than nine" (4<9), "seven is less than eight (7<8)."
7. Explain the worksheets.

1. On the worksheet, students place 6 blocks under the 6, and 3 blocks under the 3.
2. Students draw six blocks under the 6 and draw 3 blocks under the 3.
3. Students compare the numbers and decide which is the larger of the pair (6).
4. Students draw the correct inequality sign (>) in the circle between the two numbers.
5. Repeat for additional examples.

Assessment:

DOES THE STUDENT:
-   draw sets of the correct number of blocks
-   compare numbers accurately
-   draw the correct inequality sign

Differentiation:

REINFORCEMENT:
-   Students place blocks in two lines or on two adjacent number lines. Ask which group makes a longer line of blocks.
-   Remind students to think of the inequality signs as alligator mouths that open toward the largest group.
-   Ask students to circle the largest number, but skip drawing the inequality sign.

EXTENSION:
-   Challenge students to place all four numbers from one page in order from smallest or largest, then draw inequality signs between all of the numbers.
-   Students make their own examples and fill in.