

ORDERING FRACTIONS

1. On the overhead projector, write the fractions $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{10}$. **What true statements can you write about these two fractions? Use your fraction pieces to help you.**
2. Ask a volunteer to tell a true statement about the two fractions and demonstrate on the overhead projector with the fraction pieces. **Did anyone else come up with a different statement?** When the students have come up with the statements " $\frac{3}{10}$ is less than $\frac{1}{2}$ " and " $\frac{1}{2}$ is greater than $\frac{3}{10}$," you might want to introduce the symbols $>$ (greater than) and $<$ (less than).
3. On the overhead projector, write the fractions: $\frac{2}{10}$, $\frac{1}{6}$, $\frac{5}{8}$. **What true statements can you write about these three fractions?** Ask volunteers to tell comparison statements and use the overhead fraction pieces to prove their statements are true. **How would you order these three fractions from least to greatest?** ($\frac{1}{6}$, $\frac{2}{10}$, $\frac{5}{8}$)
4. On the overhead projector, write the fractions: $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{2}{6}$, $\frac{4}{10}$, $\frac{5}{12}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, and $\frac{3}{8}$ and introduce the question. **How would you order these fractions from least to greatest? Work with a partner. Make a recording and explain how you know your order is correct.**

A.129

[Source: 20 Thinking Questions for Fraction Circles - Grades 3-6, Creative Publications, pages 28-29]

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- ◆ When you ordered the fractions $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{2}{6}$, $\frac{4}{10}$, $\frac{5}{12}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, and $\frac{3}{8}$ from least to greatest, how did you go about it?
- ◆ Did anyone go about it in a different way? Explain what you did.
- ◆ What was the final order you came up with? How can you convince the class that the order you decided on is correct?
- ◆ Can anyone else convince the class in a different way?
- ◆ Did anyone have a different order? What was it?
- ◆ What interesting things did you discover about your pieces?
- ◆ Did anyone else find something interesting? If so, what?

JOURNAL REFLECTION

Was it difficult to order these fractions? Explain why or why not.

Without using fraction pieces, determine the order of the following fractions from least to greatest: $\frac{5}{12}$, $\frac{5}{8}$, $\frac{5}{10}$. Tell how you know the order you decided on is correct.

How would you order the following fractions from least to greatest: $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{5}{10}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{8}$? Explain your thinking.

A.130

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