

Understand it!

Place value is used to compare and order numbers.

Comparing and Ordering Whole Numbers

How can you compare numbers?

Use the data in the table to compare the distances from Canberra to each capital city. Which capital city is the further from Canberra: Adelaide or Brisbane?

| Capital City | Distance from Canberra (km) |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Adelaide | 1 155 |
| Brisbane | 1 080 |
| Darwin | 3 940 |
| Hobart | 864 |
| Melbourne | 660 |
| Perth | 3 840 |
| Sydney | 285 |

Step 1

Write the numbers in a place-value chart.



Compare the digits from left to right.

Step 2

Find the first place where the digits are different.

1155

1080

Use > or < to compare.

$$1 > 0$$

So, $1155 > 1080$.

Step 3

Write your answer.

$$1155 > 1080$$

or

$$1080 < 1155$$

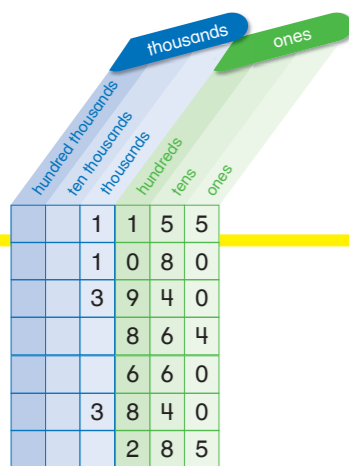
Adelaide is further from Canberra than Brisbane.

Another Example

Order the distances from Canberra shortest to longest.

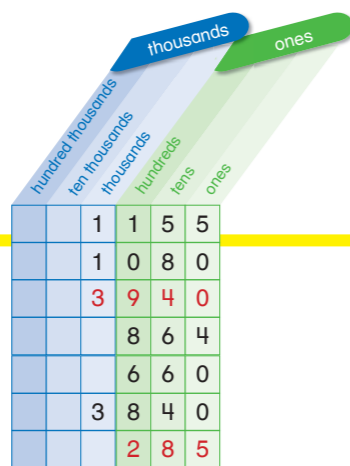
Step 1

Write the distances, lining up the place value of each digit. Compare the digits.



Step 2

Identify the smallest and largest numbers.



Step 3

Look at the remaining numbers, comparing their place value. Rewrite the numbers from smallest to largest.

