

Comparing and Ordering Large Numbers

Chapter 4: Thousands Around Us · Topic 2

Key Concept

To compare two 4-digit numbers, we first compare the thousands digit - the number with the bigger thousands digit is greater.

If thousands digits are equal, we compare hundreds, then tens, then ones, just like we did for 3-digit numbers, following the place value order.

For example, comparing 4,521 and 4,398: both have 4 thousands, so we compare hundreds - 5 is more than 3, so 4,521 is greater.

Ordering several large numbers means arranging them from smallest to largest or largest to smallest by comparing them step by step.

Quick Revision Notes

- Compare thousands digit first.
- If thousands are equal, compare hundreds.
- Then compare tens, then ones if needed.
- $4,521 > 4,398$ because 5 hundreds is more than 3 hundreds.
- This method extends the 3-digit comparison method.
- Ordering means arranging numbers by size.
- We compare step by step to order numbers.
- This skill works for any size of number.

Practice Questions

- 1 Compare 6,234 and 6,243 using the correct method.
- 2 Order the numbers 4,500, 450, 45,00 written correctly and compare.
- 3 Compare two random 4-digit numbers and explain your reasoning.
- 4 Order five 4-digit numbers from smallest to largest.
- 5 Find two 4-digit numbers in a newspaper and compare them.
- 6 Explain why the thousands digit matters most.