

Choosing a comparison activities



1 Choose the two groups, then compare

Put out a mix of a few kinds of objects. Ask a comparison question about two of them. Students pick out those two groups, set the rest aside, and compare.

"More animals or more blocks? Show me the animals, show me the blocks. What will we leave out?"

"Now compare the two groups you chose — which has more?"

2 A busier mix — leave out more kinds

Put out more kinds of objects together. Ask a comparison question about two of them. Students find only the two named kinds and set the others aside.

"There are lots of kinds here. Find only the counters and the pencils — leave the rest."

"Were there kinds that could have confused you? Did you manage to leave them out?"

3 Same objects — new question

Keep the same mixed collection out and ask a new question about different kinds. Students choose the new two groups and compare from the start — the earlier comparison does not decide this one.

"Same objects — now, are there more blocks or more counters? Choose the two groups for this question."

"Does your last answer help here? This is a new comparison — we choose again and compare it on its own."

4 Non-example: comparing the wrong two groups

Ask "more animals or more blocks?" then compare the animals and the counters instead. Ask whether that answered the question.

"The question was animals or blocks. I compared animals and counters. Did I answer the question?"

"My comparison might be right — but is it the right comparison? What should I have chosen?"