Answers and talk notes

Compare and Order Integers and Rational Numbers

What your student is learning

Tonight we compare and order integers (positive and negative whole numbers) using a number line.

Answers

Ask your student to explain before you look.

1. **D.** 2. 2 is farthest to the right, so 2 is the greatest.
2. **A.** <. −3 is to the left of 5, so −3 < 5.
3. **B.** −9. −9 is farther left than −2, so −9 is less.
4. **A.** −6. −6 is farthest left, so it is the least.
5. **B.** −8, −2, 0, 5. From left to right on the number line: −8, −2, 0, 5.
6. **C.** −10 < −6. −10 is farther left than −6, so −10 < −6.

Talk about it

Which number is farther left? Which is less?

Home mission

Lay a string on the table as a number line, with a coin at 0. Put one coin 5 finger-widths left of 0 and another 7 finger-widths left. Ask: which coin is less? Which would be colder?

When they are stuck, ask

- Which number is farther to the left on the number line? That one is less.
- Let's draw a number line and mark both numbers to see them.
- Does the wide side of the symbol point to the bigger number?

Try not to say

- -7 is bigger than -5 because 7 is bigger than 5.
- Just ignore the negative signs when you compare.
- The number with more digits is always greater.