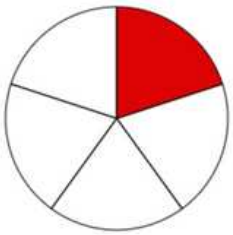
COMPARING FRACTIONS

When comparing fractions, the size or value of the fraction is what is being compared. In the beginning, fraction models, such as circles or bars, can be used to help compare since they show the size and value of the fraction.

Below we have the fractions $\frac{1}{5}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$. They have different denominators, which means they have different sized parts. To help compare these two fractions we will use models.

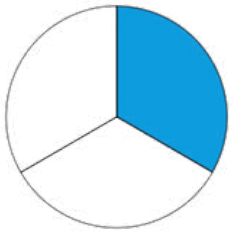
$\frac{1}{5}$ **numerator**: parts we have

denominator: total parts in whole



$\frac{1}{3}$ **numerator**: parts we have

denominator: total parts in whole



When using models to compare fractions, you look to see how much of each model Is shaded In. The model that Is shaded more, Is the greater fraction. In this problem, $\frac{1}{3}$ has more shaded, which means It is larger. Below we will compare these two fractions using the following comparison symbols:

> is greater than

< is less than

= is equal to

** remember, that the opening faces the larger of the two values.

$$\frac{1}{5} \bigcirc \frac{1}{3}$$

Since $\frac{1}{3}$ Is larger than $\frac{1}{5}$, use the less than sign to complete the comparison.

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