Comparing Fractions

Today's Standard

4.NF.A2 - Compare two fractions with different numerators and different denominators, e.g., by creating common denominators or numerators, or by comparing to a benchmark fraction such as 1/2. Recognize that comparisons are valid only when the two fractions refer to the same whole. Record the results of comparisons with symbols >, =, or <, and justify the conclusions, e.g., by using a visual fraction model.

Real-World Applications for this Standard

Comparing slices of different-sized pizzas; Determining which fraction of a dollar is greater; Comparing portions of ingredients in recipes

Today I Learned

Today, I learned how to compare fractions with different numerators and denominators. We used common denominators, numerators, and benchmark fractions like 1/2 to make comparisons.

Common Stumbling Blocks

Some kids think that fractions with bigger denominators are always smaller, but that's not true. Others think that fractions with bigger numerators are always bigger, but that's wrong too. We need to look at both the numerator and the denominator to compare fractions correctly.

Quiz Me

- What is a fraction?

- How can you compare two fractions?

- What does the denominator tell us?

- What does the numerator tell us?

- What symbol do we use to show one fraction is bigger than another?

Help Me

Fractions are parts of a whole. We can compare fractions by making the parts the same size or by using easy fractions like 1/2. For example, if you have two different-sized pizza slices, you can compare them to see which one is bigger.