

Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

Greater and Less Than Alligators Banner

Congratulations on your purchase of this Really Good Stuff® **Greater and Less Than Alligators Banner**. This banner is sure to delight your students with eye catching, colorful alligators, while helping them remember the directionality of these important mathematical signs.

Inside this Really Good Stuff® set you will find:

- One 39" x 12" banner
- This Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

Bulletin Board Display

Make a copy of the reproducible activities. Choose a bulletin board that is visible to all your students so that they can use the banner to check the directionality of their greater than and less than signs when doing their math work.

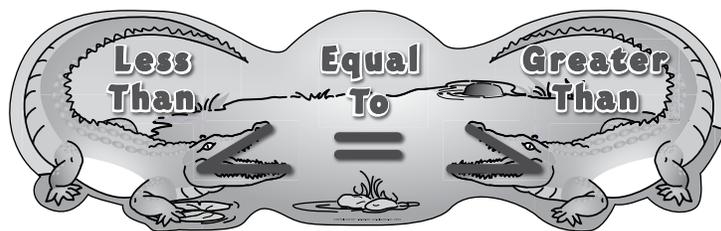
Introducing the Greater and Less Than Alligators Banner

You may want to familiarize students with the words *greater than*, *equal to*, and *less than* before you even show them the banner. Work out some examples together on the chart stand or blackboard so that students start with a basic knowledge of this concept. Tell students that you have an easy, fun way for them to remember which way the signs go. Explain that the “mouth” of the sign will ALWAYS open to the bigger number. Show students the banner and explain how an alligator is very hungry and will always “eat” the greater amount. Tell students that this visualization trick of the mouth opening (towards the bigger number) will help them to remember which way the signs go.

Remind students that they are fortunate to have such a great banner in their classroom to use as a tool to always get their signs correct.

Using the Reproducibles Included with this Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

Copy the reproducibles found on the back of the banner before displaying it. *Reproducible 1* is a student work mat which should be copied onto oaktag board and laminated. You may want to copy a class set to do examples together or just laminate a few work mats for individual or small group practice at a math center.

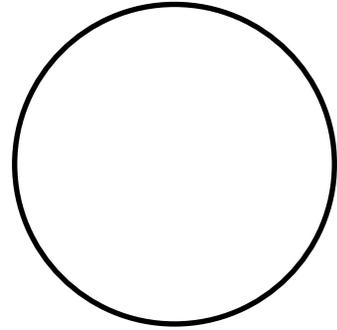
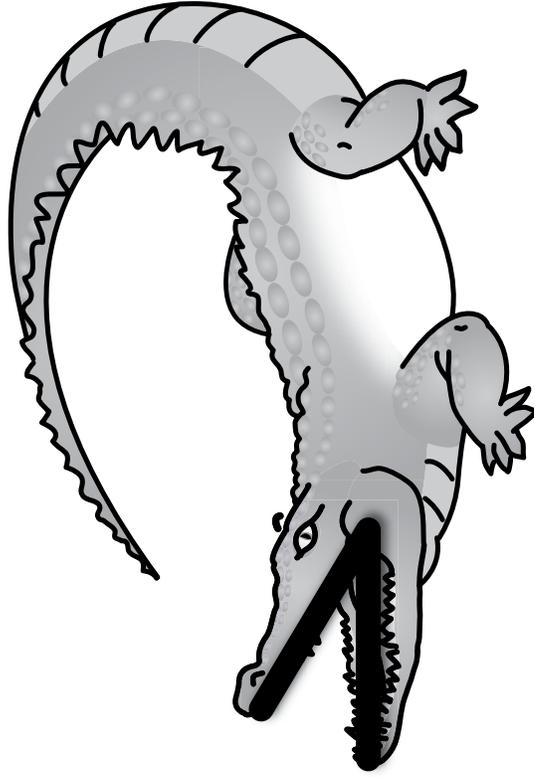
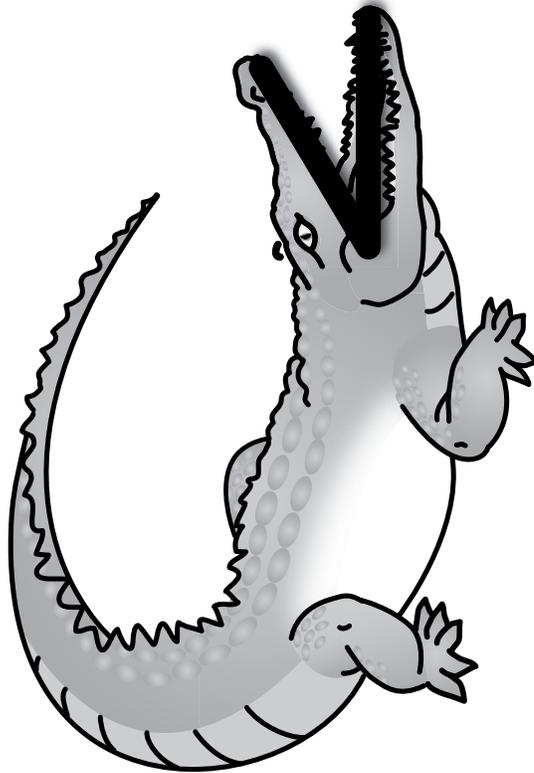


Students can practice writing in numbers or drawing sets of objects with wipe-off markers and placing the correct sign (<,=,>) in the circle in the center. *Reproducible 2* can be used as a basic review sheet or quick assessment on the concept of greater than, less than or equal to. Students should be directed to look at both numbers, number words or sets of objects and then place the correct sign (<,= or >) in the circle between them.

Suggested Extension Activities

1. Have students use real objects on their activity mats found in *Reproducible 1*. Students will have fun putting various objects on either side and then writing the correct signs (<,=,>) in the middle circle with a dry erase marker. Some fun things for students to use on these mats are candies, coins (counting the value of a mixed pile of change will be a fun math challenge), buttons, goldfish crackers, cereal, math cubes, milk tops, and seeds. Students are sure to come up with alternative manipulatives to use on their mats as well.
2. Make “life size” signs (<,=,>) out of cardboard and use to play a game of greater than, less than or equal to with students as the manipulatives. Small groups of students can take turns being on either side of the sign and one student can hold the life size sign in the middle of the number sentence. The remaining students back in their seats can transcribe these number sentences into their math notebooks.
3. Give students the chance to be creative! Using markers or poster paints and poster board allow the students to come up with their own original “Greater and Less Than” poster. Students will delight in sharing all the silly and scary animals they came up with to show the opening mouth of the greater than and less than sign. Hang these signs in your math center for all to enjoy and use as a math reference.

Greater and Less Than Student Work Mat

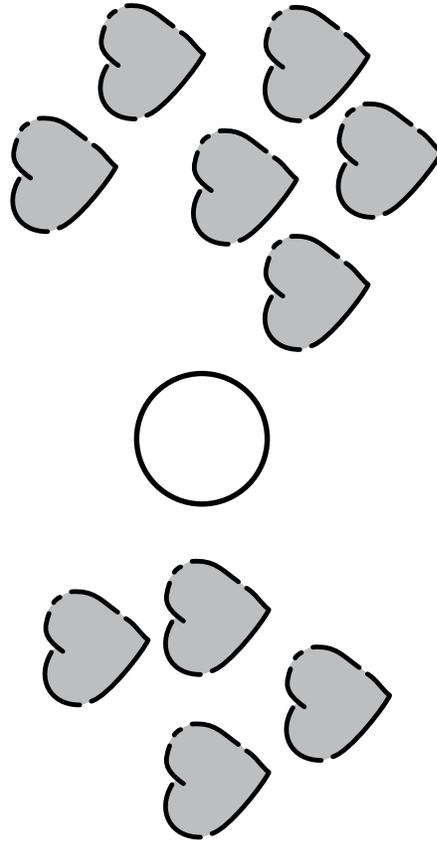
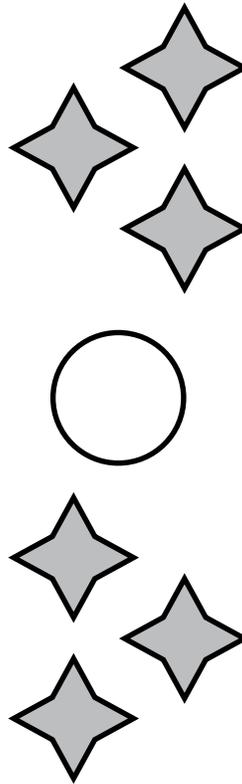


Fill in the circle with $<$, $=$ or $>$

Directions: Fill in the circle with <, =, or >

3 ○ 5 5 ○ 5 12 ○ 9

11 ○ 4 Two ○ One



Thirteen ○ Eight 0 ○ 0