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## Greater Than, Less Than, Equal To

## Tug Boat Game mat

**Kindergarten** 

Materials

## math tools such as snap cubes or counters

- Give students a Tug Boat Game Mat and snap cubes or counters. Display the first puzzle in Level 1. Say to students, "JiJi's Helping Hand is telling us to click on this boat to move it to the other side of the bridge? Why do you think JiJi wants us to do this? Turn and talk to a neighbor and share your thinking."
- Share students' ideas and then press the green triangle. Watch the feedback together and discuss what happened with the boats to make the bridge open for JiJi?
- Display the next puzzle in Level 1. Have students use the Tug Boat Game Mat and counters to represent the boats. Have students represent the puzzles on their game mats. Have students work with a partner and explain how they would solve the puzzle. Have students show the solution by drawing arrows to represent the boats that move. Have some students share their thinking whole group.
  - Repeat with the remaining puzzles in Level 1.
  - Continue with the puzzles in Level 2 in the same way as above but ask students questions such as "Which side has the greater number of boats? Which side needs more boats? How many boats do we need to move? Explain how you know."

- Display a puzzle in Level 3. Move the boats together, but then pause before clicking the green triangle. Ask students, "How could we represent our answer using numbers and symbols?" Write a number sentence on the board to show the solution (e.g., 4 = 4). Ask students, "How could we read this sentence? What does the equal sign mean?" Have students use their math tools to prove that both sides have the same (or equal) number of boats.
- Repeat with the remaining puzzles in Level 3.

- Which side has more boats? Less boats?
- How will you move the boats to get an equal number of boats on both sides?
- How do you know both sides have an equal number of boats?
- What does the equal sign represent?
- Can you think of a number that is more than \_\_\_? Less than \_\_\_? Equal to \_\_\_?

How does the student:

- represent the puzzles on the Tug Boat Game Mat? Do they draw arrows or move manipulatives to show how they want to solve the puzzle?
- write numerals to represent the number of boats?
- compare the number of boats on each side?
- explain how they know there are an equal number of boats on each side?







**Tug Boat** 

What to look for