

A decorative header featuring various icons related to mathematics and science. It includes a 3D cube, a bar chart with an upward arrow, a large plus sign, a large multiplication sign, a large minus sign, a large division sign, a compass and straightedge, a network of nodes, a pie chart, and a line graph. The background is a light purple color with overlapping circles.

COMPARING MY STATE

Activity Item

This activity uses the following online tool:

- State Facts for Students
www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/data-tools/state-facts.html

Student Learning Objectives

- I will be able to round large numbers to different place values.
- I will be able to compare numbers with many digits using symbols.

The U.S. Census Bureau collects and organizes a wide variety of population data and other types of data for the United States, and it reports these data for states, counties, and even smaller areas, like towns. Governments, businesses, and school districts use the data to make decisions that affect everyone's lives — including yours!

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Part 1 – Collect Data About Two States

In the first blank below, write the state where you live. In the second blank below, write any other state you want. You are going to compare data for the two states using State Facts for Students.

My state is _____. I am going to compare it with _____.

To get to State Facts for Students, type this web site into your browser:
www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/data-tools/state-facts.html.

Now fill in the information for each state in the table below using the 2023 population data at the top of the page and the 2023 data in the *Kids My Age* section in the tool.

	My State: _____	A Different State: _____
Population		
Total 10-year-olds		
11-year-old boys		
11-year-old girls		

Part 2 – Compare Data for Your State

1. Using a comparison symbol ($<$, $>$, $\leq$, $\geq$, $=$), compare the exact number of 11-year-old girls with the exact number of 11-year-old boys in your state.

- a. Write a sentence comparing these two exact numbers and explaining what that comparison means.

2. Round these two exact numbers to the thousands place.

11-year-old girls: _____ 11-year-old boys: _____

- a. Using a comparison symbol, compare these two rounded numbers.
 - b. Write a sentence comparing these two rounded numbers and explaining what that comparison means.
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3. Are your comparison statements from question 1a and 2b the same or different? Why or why not?
 - a. What do you think would have happened if you had rounded your numbers to a bigger or smaller place value and why?

Part 3 – Compare Data About Two States

1. Using a comparison symbol ($<$, $>$, $\leq$, $\geq$, $=$), compare the population of your state with the population of your other state.

2. Round these two numbers to the millions place.

Pennsylvania = _____ Rhode Island = _____

- a. Using a comparison symbol, compare these rounded numbers.

3. Are your comparison symbols from questions 1 and 2a the same or different? Why or why not? Use what you know about place values to explain.

Part 4 – Create Your Own Comparison Question

1. Make up your own question — and answer it — using data from State Facts for Students.

Question:

Answer:

2. Now use your rounding skills and what you know about place value to explain your comparison.

Explanation:

Part 5 – Reflect on What You Learned

When you are comparing rounded and exact numbers, will the comparisons always be the same? Why or why not?