

# I'm the Greatest!

Engaging Game for Comparing Whole Numbers or Decimals



**I'm the Greatest**  
3-Digit Whole Numbers

Materials:  
Egg carton shaker and bean  
Dry erase boards and markers

Directions:  
1. Decide on the largest number you can make.

**I'm the Greatest**  
7-Digit Whole Numbers

Materials:  
Egg carton shaker and bean  
Dry erase boards and markers

Object of the Game: To create the largest number and read it aloud correctly.

Directions:  
1. Decide on the largest number you can make.

**I'm the Greatest**

Directions:  
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**I'm the Greatest**

Directions:  
1. Decide on the largest number you can make.

**CCSS Math**  
2.NBT.4  
4.NBT.2  
5.NBT.3

# I'm the Greatest

## Comparing Whole Numbers or Decimals

Created by Laura Candler

**I'm the Greatest** is an exciting game for comparing numbers and reading word names aloud. You can play it with the whole class or have your students play in cooperative learning teams or math centers. It's easy to differentiate because there are 5 levels that range from using 3-digit whole numbers to using 7-digit decimal numbers to thousandths. The game is aligned with Number and Operations in Base Ten CCSS for 2nd, 4th, and 5th grade. See page 15 for details.

**I'm the Greatest** involves having students create numbers from randomly-generated digits (0 - 9). After each student creates a unique number, they read their numbers aloud and compare them to see whose number is the greatest.

For this activity, you'll need a method of randomly selecting numbers from 0 to 9. The directions call for an egg carton with those numbers written randomly inside the egg cups along with a dried bean or other small object. However, you could easily use numbered craft sticks, ten-sided dice, or even a deck of playing cards with the face cards removed.

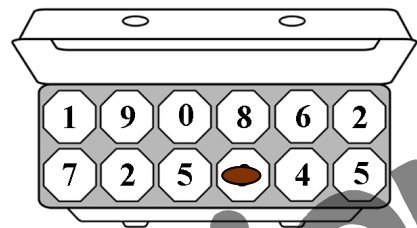
### Materials Needed:

- 1 egg carton numbered 0 - 9
- 1 bean or small object
- Paper and pencil or dry erase boards and markers

### Introduce in Whole Group Setting

Before using this activity in centers, introduce it to your class in a whole group setting. Choose one of the game boards shown on the right depending on the skill or objective to review. Display the game board on an interactive whiteboard or on an overhead projector. Have the students draw the corresponding lines on individual white boards or on paper.

Choose a number by putting a dried bean into the egg carton and shaking it. Open the lid and announce the number under the bean. Everyone must write that number on one line and after the number has been written, it cannot be moved or changed. It helps for all students to keep their dry erase boards on top of their desks in plain view so that no one is accused of moving the numbers after they've been placed.



**I'm the Greatest**  
3-Digit Whole Numbers

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

1. In your journal or on a dry erase board, draw 7 lines as shown above including the comma and decimal point.  
2. One person puts the bean in the egg carton shaker and closes the lid. He or she shakes the carton, opens it, and announces the number under the bean.  
3. Everyone writes that number on any of the 7 lines. After the number is written, it can't be moved!  
4. Take turns taking for numbers and reading them aloud. Repeat until all 7 lines are filled.  
5. Compare with the other players. If playing with the whole class, compare within teams. Everyone must read their number aloud to the team in turn. The person with the largest number stands up and says, "I'm the Greatest!"

**I'm the Greatest**  
4-Digit Whole Numbers

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

1. In your journal or on a dry erase board, draw 7 lines as shown above including the comma and decimal point.  
2. One person puts the bean in the egg carton shaker and closes the lid. He or she shakes the carton, opens it, and announces the number under the bean.  
3. Everyone writes that number on any of the 7 lines. After the number is written, it can't be moved!  
4. Take turns taking for numbers and reading them aloud. Repeat until all 7 lines are filled.  
5. Compare with the other players. If playing with the whole class, compare within teams. Everyone must read their number aloud to the team in turn. The person with the largest number stands up and says, "I'm the Greatest!"

**I'm the Greatest**  
7-Digit Whole Numbers

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

1. In your journal or on a dry erase board, draw 7 lines as shown above including the comma and decimal point.  
2. One person puts the bean in the egg carton shaker and closes the lid. He or she shakes the carton, opens it, and announces the number under the bean.  
3. Everyone writes that number on any of the 7 lines. After the number is written, it can't be moved!  
4. Take turns taking for numbers and reading them aloud. Repeat until all 7 lines are filled.  
5. Compare with the other players. If playing with the whole class, compare within teams. Everyone must read their number aloud to the team in turn. The person with the largest number stands up and says, "I'm the Greatest!"

**I'm the Greatest**  
Decimals to Hundredths

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

1. In your journal or on a dry erase board, draw 7 lines as shown above including the comma and decimal point.  
2. One person puts the bean in the egg carton shaker and closes the lid. He or she shakes the carton, opens it, and announces the number under the bean.  
3. Everyone writes that number on any of the 7 lines. After the number is written, it can't be moved!  
4. Take turns taking for numbers and reading them aloud. Repeat until all 7 lines are filled.  
5. Compare with the other players. If playing with the whole class, compare within teams. Everyone must read their number aloud to the team in turn. The person with the largest number stands up and says, "I'm the Greatest!"

**I'm the Greatest**  
Decimals to Thousandths

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

1. In your journal or on a dry erase board, draw 7 lines as shown above including the comma and decimal point.  
2. One person puts the bean in the egg carton shaker and closes the lid. He or she shakes the carton, opens it, and announces the number under the bean.  
3. Everyone writes that number on any of the 7 lines. After the number is written, it can't be moved!  
4. Take turns taking for numbers and reading them aloud. Repeat until all 7 lines are filled.  
5. Compare with the other players. If playing with the whole class, compare within teams. Everyone must read their number aloud to the team in turn. The person with the largest number stands up and says, "I'm the Greatest!"



After all of the numbers have been announced and all blanks are filled, allow a few moments for your students to look at their own numbers and practice reading them silently. If your class is small, you can do the next step in a whole group, but if you have a large group, it works best in teams. Have each student read aloud his or her number and show it to the team or class. After all numbers have been read aloud, the student whose number is the largest stands up and says, "I'm the greatest!" If students do this in teams, ask the student on each team who has the largest number to come to the front of the class. Ask them to hold up their dry erase boards, and have the class determine which of the students has the largest number in the whole class. Play several more rounds of the game, and then lead a class discussion about strategies for creating the largest number. Most students soon realize that to have the best chance of winning, the largest digits must be written on the far left. For example, an 8 in the thousands place means 8,000 while an 8 in the tens place is only worth 80.

### Extension Activities

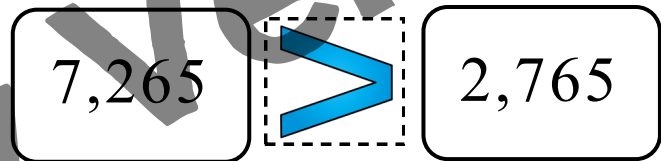
After you have the class play the basic game a few times, extend the activity to include additional place value skills. Here are a few options:

- **Sequencing Several Numbers**

Ask five or six students to bring their dry erase boards to the front of the room and silently line up in order from least to greatest. Call on a volunteer to read the numbers aloud for the class to check the answers.

- **Comparing with Math Symbols**

To practice using math symbols in comparisons, draw or print the symbols on the next page on card stock and cut them apart. After the students write their numbers, call on two students to come to the front of the room and show their numbers. Ask the other students to record the two numbers and to place a greater than, less than, or equal to sign between them. Finally, ask for a volunteer to take the appropriate comparison sign and stand between the two students at the front of the room so everyone can check their answers.

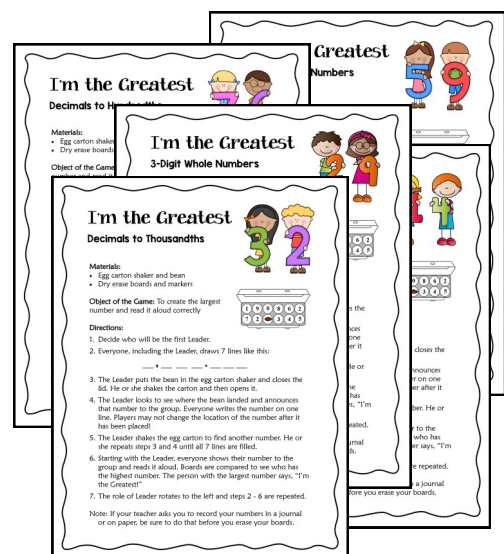


- **Writing Number Word Names and/or Expanded Numbers**

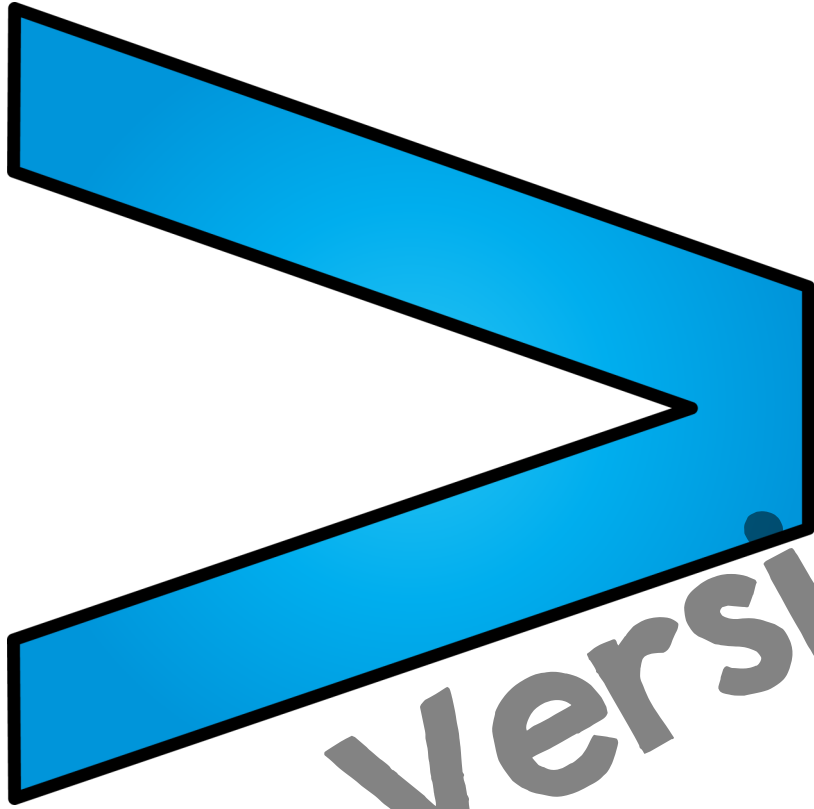
To have your students practice writing word names and/or expanded numbers, ask them to write the number word name and/or expanded form after each round of play.

### Math Centers or Cooperative Learning Teams

This game makes a great math center or cooperative learning activity, too. Print one of the center direction pages shown here on card stock and laminate it. If you have students on different levels, you can print more than one direction card. You'll also need an egg carton shaker or other method of selecting numbers for each center or team. Store the materials for each center together. When it's time for students to play the game, place them in groups of 2 to 4 students and assign the first Leader. If you want a record of their work, ask them to record their numbers in a math journal or on paper at the end of each round.



# Comparing Numbers Symbols



Preview Version

# I'm the Greatest

## 3-Digit Whole Numbers



### Directions

1. In your journal or on a dry erase board, draw the 3 lines as shown above.
2. One person puts the bean in the egg carton shaker and closes the lid. He or she shakes the carton, opens it, and announces the number under the bean.
3. Everyone writes that number on any of the 3 lines. After the number is written, it can't be moved!
4. Take turns shaking for numbers and reading them aloud. Repeat until all 3 lines are filled.
5. Compare with the other players. If playing with the whole class, compare within teams. Everyone must read their number aloud to the team in turn. The person with the largest number stands up and says, "I'm the Greatest!"

# I'm the Greatest

## 4-Digit Whole Numbers



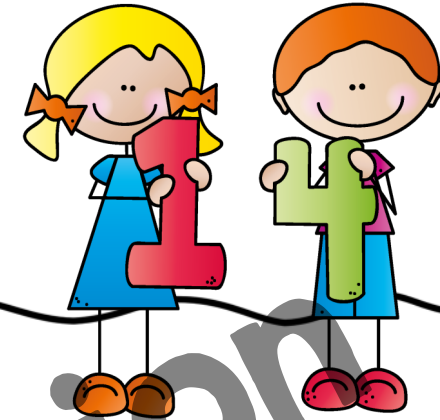
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### Directions

1. In your journal or on a dry erase board, draw the 4 lines with one comma as shown above.
2. One person puts the bean in the egg carton shaker and closes the lid. He or she shakes the carton, opens it, and announces the number under the bean.
3. Everyone writes that number on any of the 4 lines. After the number is written, it can't be moved!
4. Take turns shaking for numbers and reading them aloud. Repeat until all 4 lines are filled.
5. Compare with the other players. If playing with the whole class, compare within teams. Everyone must read their number aloud to the team in turn. The person with the largest number stands up and says, "I'm the Greatest!"

# I'm the Greatest

## 7-Digit Whole Numbers



### Directions

1. In your journal or on a dry erase board, draw the 7 lines with two commas as shown above.
2. One person puts the bean in the egg carton shaker and closes the lid. He or she shakes the carton, opens it, and announces the number under the bean.
3. Everyone writes that number on any of the 7 lines. After the number is written, it can't be moved!
4. Take turns shaking for numbers and reading them aloud. Repeat until all 7 lines are filled.
5. Compare with the other players. If playing with the whole class, compare within teams. Everyone must read their number aloud to the team in turn. The person with the largest number stands up and says, "I'm the Greatest!"

# I'm the Greatest

## Decimals to Hundredths



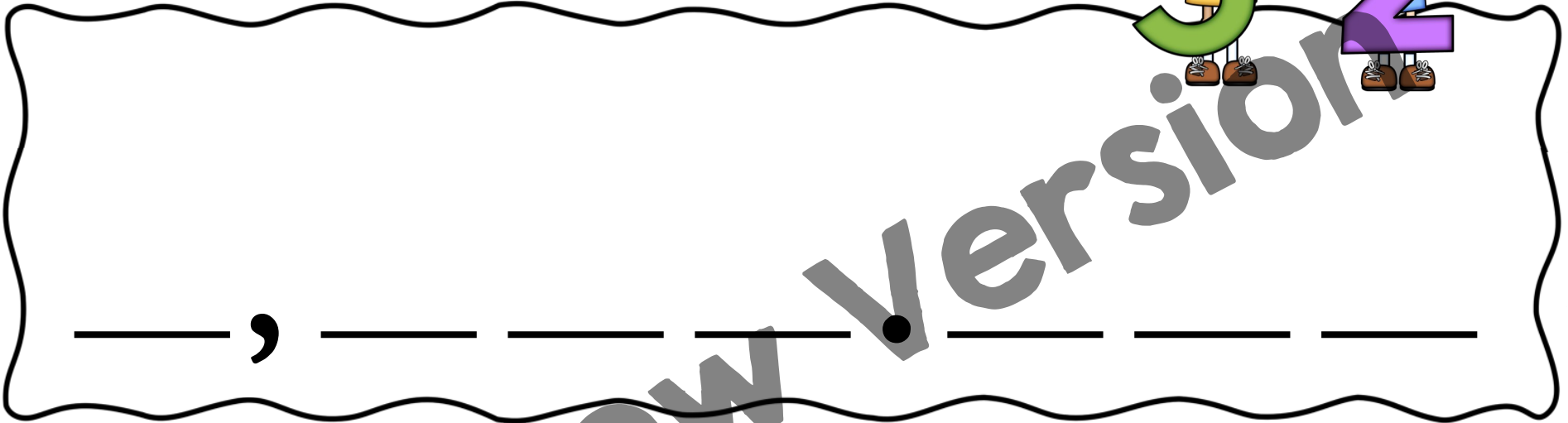
### Directions

1. In your journal or on a dry erase board, draw 6 lines as shown above including the comma and decimal point.
2. One person puts the bean in the egg carton shaker and closes the lid. He or she shakes the carton, opens it, and announces the number under the bean.
3. Everyone writes that number on any of the 6 lines. After the number is written, it can't be moved!
4. Take turns shaking for numbers and reading them aloud. Repeat until all 6 lines are filled.
5. Compare with the other players. If playing with the whole class, compare within teams. Everyone must read their number aloud to the team in turn. The person with the largest number stands up and says, "I'm the Greatest!"



# I'm the Greatest

## Decimals to Thousandths



### Directions

1. In your journal or on a dry erase board, draw 7 lines as shown above including the comma and decimal point.
2. One person puts the bean in the egg carton shaker and closes the lid. He or she shakes the carton, opens it, and announces the number under the bean.
3. Everyone writes that number on any of the 7 lines. After the number is written, it can't be moved!
4. Take turns shaking for numbers and reading them aloud. Repeat until all 7 lines are filled.
5. Compare with the other players. If playing with the whole class, compare within teams. Everyone must read their number aloud to the team in turn. The person with the largest number stands up and says, "I'm the Greatest!"

# I'm the Greatest

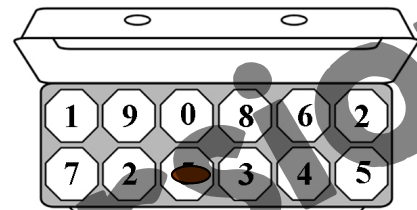
## 3-Digit Whole Numbers



### Materials:

- Egg carton shaker and bean
- Dry erase boards and markers

**Object of the Game:** To create the largest number and read it aloud correctly



### Directions:

1. Decide who will be the first Leader.
2. Everyone, including the Leader, draws 3 lines like this:

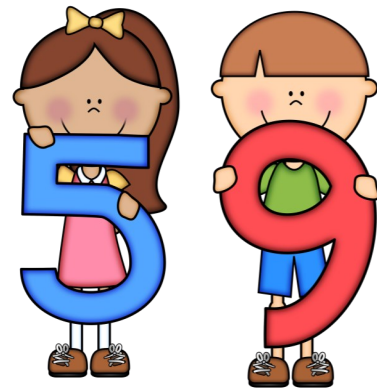
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3. The Leader puts the bean in the egg carton shaker and closes the lid. He or she shakes the carton and then opens it.
4. The Leader looks to see where the bean landed and announces that number to the group. Everyone writes the number on one line. Players may not change the location of the number after it has been placed!
5. The Leader shakes the egg carton to find another number. He or she repeats steps 3 and 4 until all 3 lines are filled.
6. Starting with the Leader, everyone shows their number to the group and reads it aloud. Boards are compared to see who has the highest number. The person with the largest number says, "I'm the Greatest!"
7. The role of Leader rotates to the left and steps 2 - 6 are repeated.

**Note:** If your teacher asks you to record your numbers in a journal or on paper, be sure to do that before you erase your boards.

# I'm the Greatest

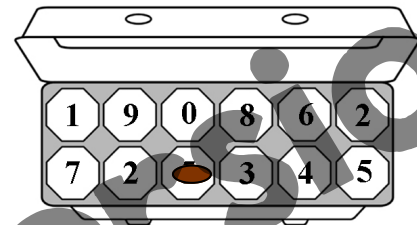
## 4-Digit Whole Numbers



### Materials:

- Egg carton shaker and bean
- Dry erase boards and markers

**Object of the Game:** To create the largest number and read it aloud correctly



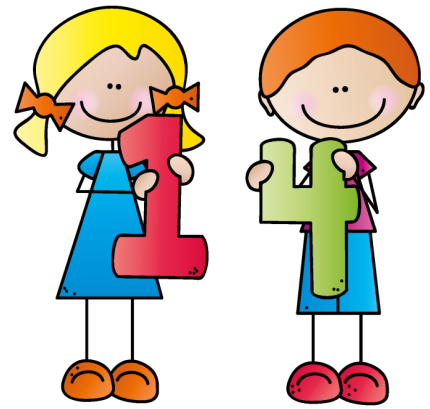
### Directions:

1. Decide who will be the first Leader.
2. Everyone, including the Leader, draws 4 lines like this:  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The Leader puts the bean in the egg carton shaker and closes the lid. He or she shakes the carton and then opens it.
4. The Leader looks to see where the bean landed and announces that number to the group. Everyone writes the number on one line. Players may not change the location of the number after it has been placed!
5. The Leader shakes the egg carton to find another number. He or she repeats steps 3 and 4 until all 4 lines are filled.
6. Starting with the Leader, everyone shows their number to the group and reads it aloud. Boards are compared to see who has the highest number. The person with the largest number says, "I'm the Greatest!"
7. The role of Leader rotates to the left and steps 2 - 6 are repeated.

**Note:** If your teacher asks you to record your numbers in a journal or on paper, be sure to do that before you erase your boards.

# I'm the Greatest

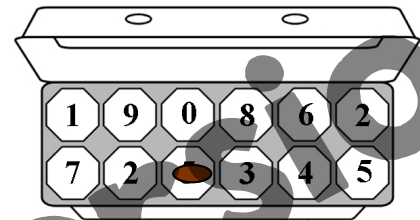
## 7-Digit Whole Numbers



### Materials:

- Egg carton shaker and bean
- Dry erase boards and markers

**Object of the Game:** To create the largest number and read it aloud correctly



### Directions:

1. Decide who will be the first Leader.
2. Everyone, including the Leader, draws 7 lines like this:

\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_

3. The Leader puts the bean in the egg carton shaker and closes the lid. He or she shakes the carton and then opens it.
4. The Leader looks to see where the bean landed and announces that number to the group. Everyone writes the number on one line. Players may not change the location of the number after it has been placed!
5. The Leader shakes the egg carton to find another number. He or she repeats steps 3 and 4 until all 7 lines are filled.
6. Starting with the Leader, everyone shows their number to the group and reads it aloud. Boards are compared to see who has the highest number. The person with the largest number says, "I'm the Greatest!"
7. The role of Leader rotates to the left and steps 2 - 6 are repeated.

**Note:** If your teacher asks you to record your numbers in a journal or on paper, be sure to do that before you erase your boards.



# I'm the Greatest

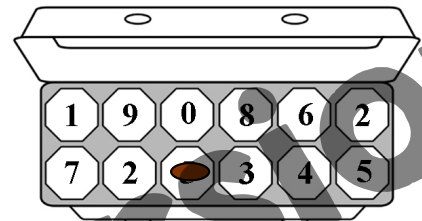
## Decimals to Hundredths



### Materials:

- Egg carton shaker and bean
- Dry erase boards and markers

**Object of the Game:** To create the largest number and read it aloud correctly



### Directions:

1. Decide who will be the first Leader.
2. Everyone, including the Leader, draws 6 lines like this:

— , — — — • — — —

3. The Leader puts the bean in the egg carton shaker and closes the lid. He or she shakes the carton and then opens it.
4. The Leader looks to see where the bean landed and announces that number to the group. Everyone writes the number on one line. Players may not change the location of the number after it has been placed!
5. The Leader shakes the egg carton to find another number. He or she repeats steps 3 and 4 until all 6 lines are filled.
6. Starting with the Leader, everyone shows their number to the group and reads it aloud. Boards are compared to see who has the highest number. The person with the largest number says, "I'm the Greatest!"
7. The role of Leader rotates to the left and steps 2 - 6 are repeated.

**Note:** If your teacher asks you to record your numbers in a journal or on paper, be sure to do that before you erase your boards.

# I'm the Greatest

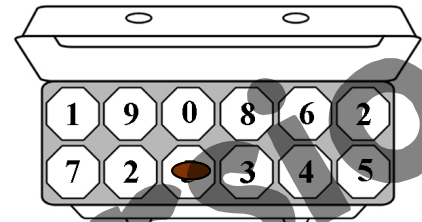
## Decimals to Thousandths



### Materials:

- Egg carton shaker and bean
- Dry erase boards and markers

**Object of the Game:** To create the largest number and read it aloud correctly



### Directions:

1. Decide who will be the first Leader.
2. Everyone, including the Leader, draws 7 lines like this:

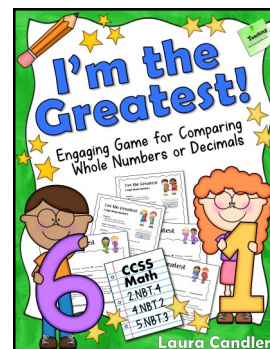
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7. The role of Leader rotates to the left and steps 2 - 6 are repeated.

**Note:** If your teacher asks you to record your numbers in a journal or on paper, be sure to do that before you erase your boards.



## Common Core Alignment Grades 2, 4, and 5



2.NBT.4 Compare two three-digit numbers based on meanings of the hundreds, tens, and ones digits, using  $>$ ,  $=$ , and  $<$  symbols to record the results of comparisons.

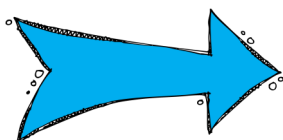
4.NBT.2 Read and write multi-digit whole numbers using base-ten numerals, number names, and expanded form. Compare two multi-digit numbers based on meanings of the digits in each place, using  $>$ ,  $=$ , and  $<$  symbols to record the results of comparisons.

5.NBT.3 Read, write, and compare decimals to thousandths.

- Read and write decimals to thousandths using base-ten numerals, number names, and expanded form, e.g.,  $347.392 = 3 \times 100 + 4 \times 10 + 7 \times 1 + 3 \times (1/10) + 9 \times (1/100) + 2 \times (1/1000)$ .
- Compare two decimals to thousandths based on meanings of the digits in each place, using  $>$ ,  $=$ , and  $<$  symbols to record the results of comparisons.

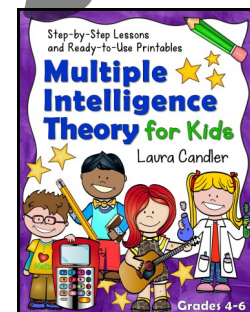
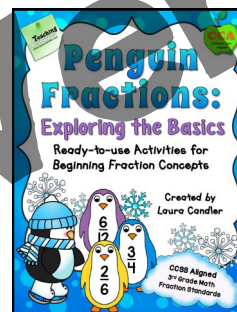
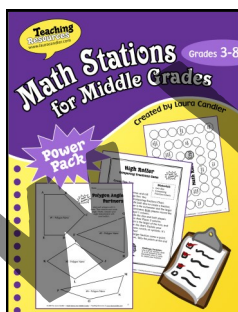
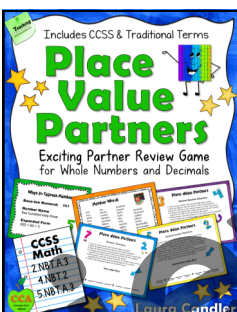
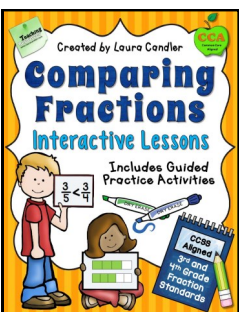
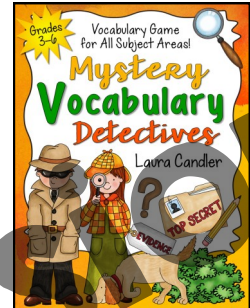
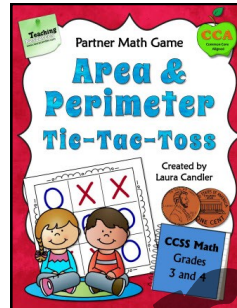
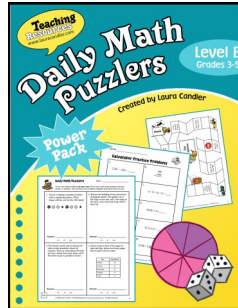
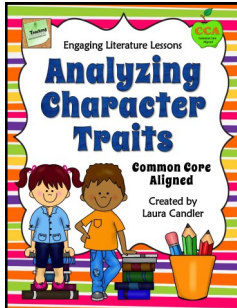
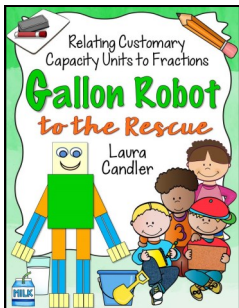
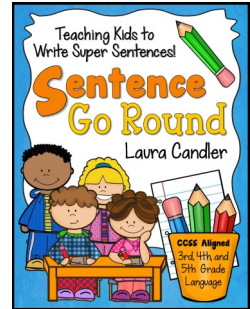
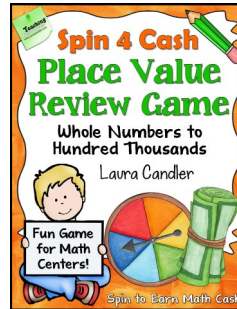
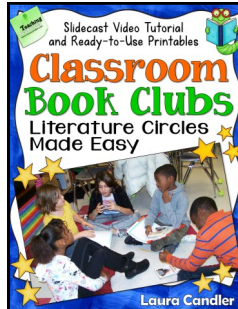
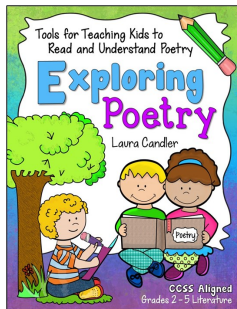
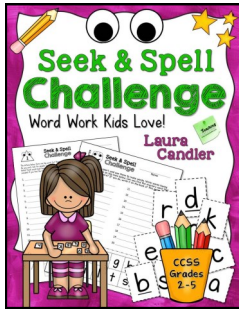
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- Whimsy Clips
- Graphics from the Pond
- Digital Classroom Clipart
- Living Breathing and Loving Teaching





More Teaching Resources from Laura Candler! Click each item below to find it in [my TpT store](#).



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Laura Candler

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