

## Greater Than · Less Than · Equal To

**Overview:** Students will compare kale plants in the garden, practicing their math skills of determining *greater than*, *less than*, and *equal to*.

**Subject Area:** Math—Counting

**Grade Level:** 1<sup>st</sup>

**Objective:** Students will be able to compare leaves on similar plants of a garden vegetable and determine if they are greater than, less than, or equal to the average number of leaves in the entire bed.

### Oregon Common Core Standards for Mathematics

#### 1.NBT Number and Operations in Base Ten

- **1.NBT.B.3** Compare two two-digit numbers based on meanings of the tens and ones digits, recording the results of comparisons with the symbols  $>$ ,  $=$ , and  $<$ .

**Prep Time:** 15 minutes

**Lesson Time:** 30 minutes

#### Materials needed:

- A garden bed with different varieties of kale
- Labels with numbers on them for each plant
- Math in the Garden worksheet (attached), one per student
- Pencils
- Clipboards

**Space needed:** School garden

**Staff needed:** 2

#### Preparation steps:

1. Label each kale plant in the bed.
2. Count the number of leaves on each kale plant and record the average number of leaves for the bed.
3. Make copies of worksheet and gather pencils and clipboards.

#### Presentation steps:

1. Ask the students: *What vegetable is this? How many leaves do you think each plant has? What does the word average mean?*
2. Explain that students are going to work individually or in pairs (instructor decides) to determine how many leaves are on each plant. Then students will compare the leaves on the individual plant to the

bed's average number. Students will record their answers on the worksheet using the symbols  $>$  ,  $<$  , and  $=$ .

3. Give students a few minutes to work, making sure they are spaced adequately, and can move around the bed easily. Help individual or small groups of students, as needed.

**Conclusion:** Review the worksheet with students. Ask them if they can think of another time they might use this math concept in daily life.

## Math in the Garden

In the garden, there are about six leaves on each kale plant. Record the actual number of leaves on each kale plant. Then, put the correct sign if each plant's leaves are greater than ( $>$ ), less than ( $<$ ), or equal to ( $=$ ) six.

Kale Plant	Number of Leaves	$>$ , $<$ or $=$ to 6
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
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