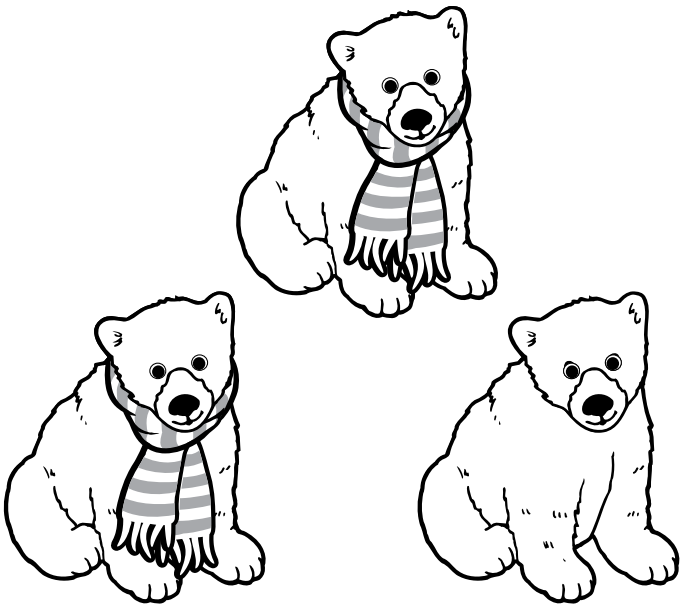
Comparing Objects

Preschool–Kindergarten



Objective

Math: Counting & Cardinality

- Identify whether the number of objects in one group is greater than, less than or equal to the number of objects in another group, e.g., by using matching and counting strategies.

Materials Needed

- Document camera
- Penguin counters reproducible
- Colorful winter scarves
- Paper
- Classroom Pencils
- Polar Bear Compare reproducible

Procedure

1. Draw a vertical line down the center of a piece of paper, and display it on a document camera. Place four penguin counters in one column, and place three penguin counters in the other column.
2. Tell students that both sides contain penguin families that are going to meet each other and become friends.
3. Explain that one family has more penguins than the other.
4. Pair one penguin on one side of the line with a penguin on the other side of the line. Continue until there is one penguin left over.
5. Ask students, "Which family has more penguins? Which has fewer penguins?"
6. Repeat this activity with different amounts of penguin counters, inviting students to come up and help the penguins "meet" each other.

Guided Practice

1. Tell students that they are going to act out counting and matching strategies to compare students in their class.
2. Call four students to the front of the room and give each student a colorful winter scarf to put on.
3. Then call six more students to the front of the room, but do not give these students a scarf.
4. Prompt students to share how they can use the matching strategy to compare the two groups.
5. Have each student who is wearing a scarf pair off with a student who is not wearing a scarf until two students are left without partners.
6. Then ask, "Are more students wearing scarves or not wearing scarves?"
7. Repeat the activity by having the students who are wearing scarves stand together and the students who are not wearing scarves stand together.
8. Say, "This time, we are going to use the counting strategy. We will simply count the number of students in each group."

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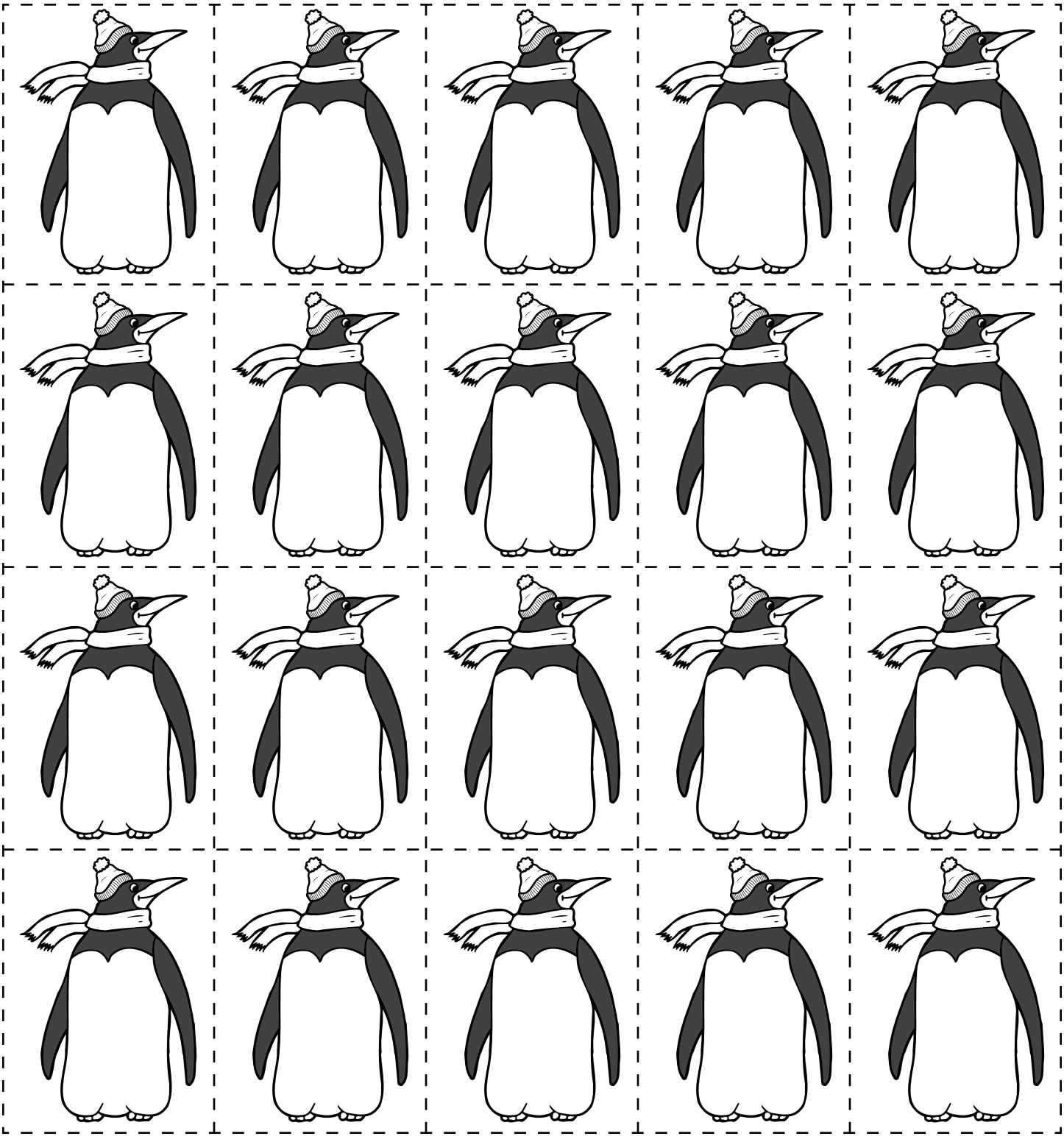
9. After you have counted the number of people in each group aloud, ask, "Is six greater than four? Yes, it is. Then we know that more students are *not* wearing scarves."
10. Repeat steps 4–9 with different volunteers and vary the number of students who are wearing or not wearing scarves.

Independent Practice

1. Give each student a copy of the Polar Bear Compare reproducible.
2. Have students compare the groups of polar bears with scarves to the groups of polar bears without scarves.
3. Tell students to circle the group in each set that has more polar bears.



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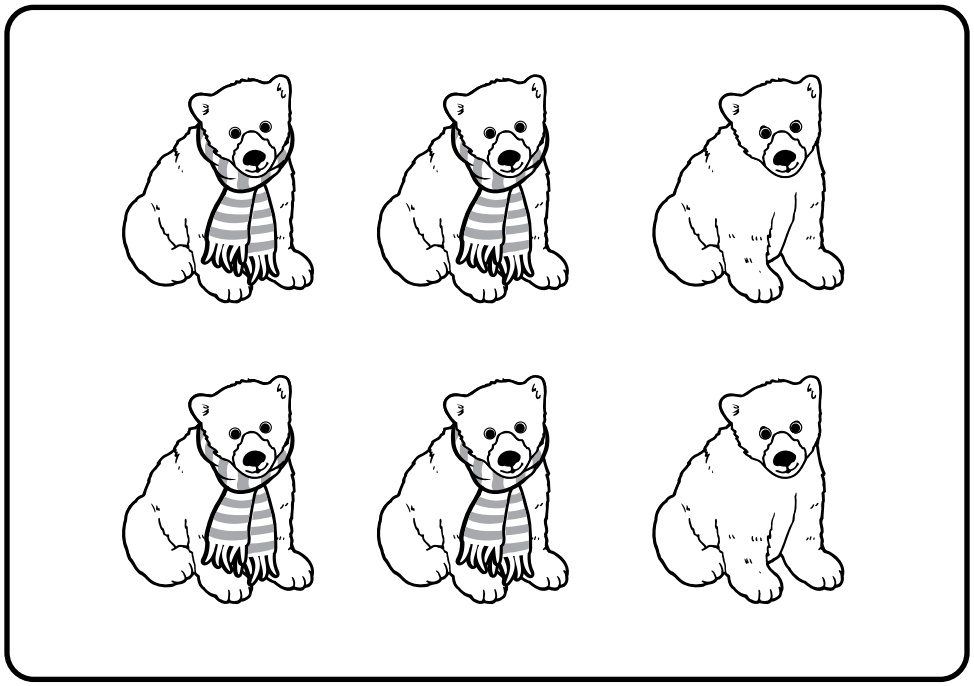
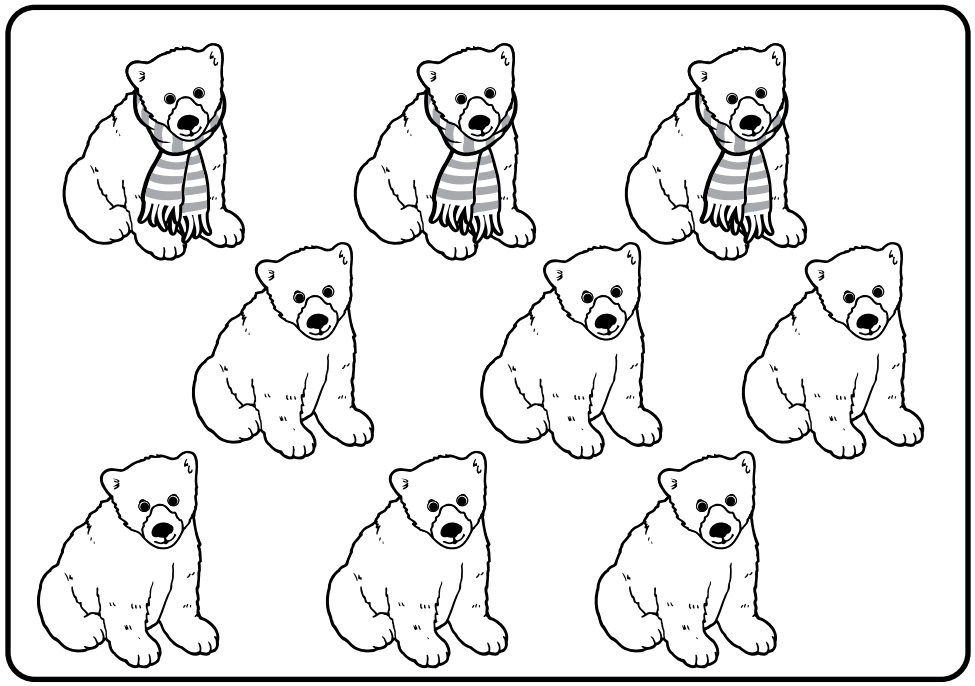
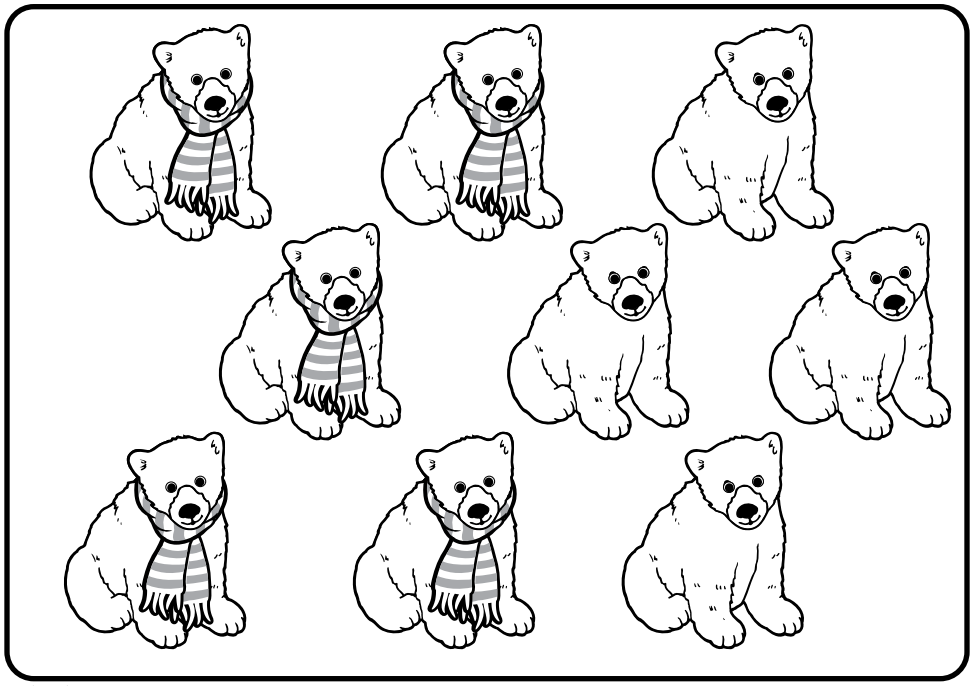
Polar Bear Compare

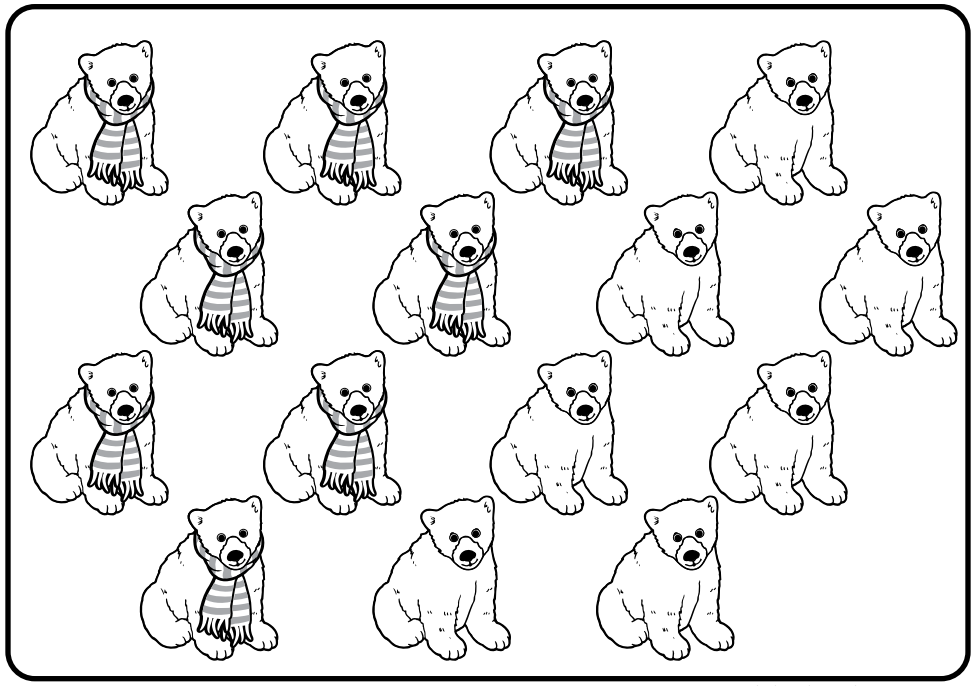
Name _____

Directions: Compare the sets of polar bears. In each set, circle the group with the greatest number of polar bears.









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