

An extra challenge for parents and caregivers

Giraffe: Open the Comparison Gate

10-minute guide · ages 6–7

The goal: Read two rows from a common start, compare tens and ones, and set the gate to match.

Reasoning is the goal; appearance is not.

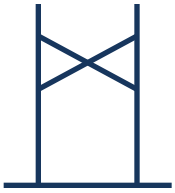
5 ways to stretch the reasoning

1. **Check the common start.**
   Point to where both rows begin.
2. **Group the tens.**
   Look at each completed group of ten.
3. **Compare the ones.**
   Count the remaining units at the ends.
4. **Read the endpoints.**
   Use the farther or matching end to explain the sign.
5. **Recheck after +10.**
   Decide whether the direction changed or stayed.

Your play plan

10 minutes

is room to explain



- No timer
- Explain ends
- Try again

Stay curious: ask what changed.

5 signs deeper comparison is growing

1. **Names tens and ones**
   Reads each group without building extra rods.
2. **Checks the common start**
   Notices both rows begin at one post.
3. **Compares the ends**
   Uses the unmatched tail as evidence.
4. **Repairs a sign**
   Leaves the first try visible.
5. **Rechecks a change**
   Compares the new state, not the old one.

Try it away from the screen today

Make two rows.
Start both at a ruler edge.

Paper-arc the larger row.
Leave both rows unchanged.

Move the arc, then add 10.
Ask which move changed a quantity.

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