Comparing Fractions Using Benchmarks

In Ms. Adams’ class, \(\frac{2}{3}\) of students are wearing red and \(\frac{2}{8}\) of students are wearing blue. She wants to know if more students are wearing red or blue.

Ms. Adams can compare each fraction to the benchmark numbers 0, \(\frac{1}{2}\), and 1.

\(\frac{2}{3}\) is between \(\frac{1}{2}\) and 1. \(\frac{2}{8}\) is between 0 and \(\frac{1}{2}\). So, \(\frac{2}{8}\) is less than \(\frac{2}{3}\).

More students in Ms. Adams’ class are wearing red.

Mina, Bobby, and Julia each have the same number of pencils. \(\frac{2}{6}\) of Mina’s pencils are red, \(\frac{2}{3}\) of Bobby’s pencils are red, and \(\frac{2}{4}\) of Julia’s pencils are red.

1. Who has more red pencils, Julia or Bobby?

2. Who has more red pencils, Mina or Julia?

3. Reason Which student has the most red pencils? Explain.