



Deli Counter Scale

Mission: The deli scale reads to the thousandth of a pound. Fill customer orders, read the scale in words, compare weights, and decide how to round the price label.

Big question: How do we read, compare, and round decimals to the thousandths?

★ Warm-up: Which is greater?

Write $>$, $<$, or $=$. Explain one.

0.4 $\underline{\quad}$ 0.375 ✓ **0.4 > 0.375 (4 tenths > 3 tenths).**

0.5 $\underline{\quad}$ 0.500 ✓ **Equal.**

Key vocabulary

Thousandths	The third place after the decimal point.
Expanded form	A number written as a sum of place values: $0.375 = 0.3 + 0.07 + 0.005$.
Round	Change to a nearby friendly number.
Compare	Decide which is greater or less ($>$, $<$, $=$).

1 Box 1

Expanded form

Which shows 0.375 in expanded form?

☐ $0.3 + 0.07 + 0.005$ ☐ $3 + 7 + 5$ ☐ $0.3 + 0.7 + 0.5$ ☐ $0.03 + 0.07 + 0.05$

✓ **0.3 + 0.07 + 0.005**

2 Box 2

About half a pound

In the simulator: A customer wants "about half a pound." Make a weight between 0.45 and 0.55 lb.

What does your scale read?

Answer: _____ lb ✓ **varies: check the student's simulator readout**

3 Box 3

Compare orders

Put these deli orders in order from least to greatest.

Put in order: 0.05 lb • 0.305 lb • 0.35 lb • 0.375 lb • 0.4 lb

1. **0.05 lb**
2. **0.305 lb**
3. **0.35 lb**
4. **0.375 lb**
5. **0.4 lb**

4 Box 4

Round the label

In the simulator: Make 0.375 lb again and switch the label to **nearest tenth**.

What does the label say, rounded to the nearest tenth?

Answer: _____ lb ✓ **0.4**

Nearest hundredth

In the simulator: Switch the label to **nearest hundredth**.

What does the label say now?

Answer: _____ lb ✓ **0.38**

5 Box 5

Fair label?

The deli rounds 0.375 lb up to 0.4 lb on the price label. Who does this help?

☐ The store: the customer pays for 0.025 lb more than they get ☐ The customer ☐ Nobody, it is the same

✓ **The store: the customer pays for 0.025 lb more than they get**

6 Box 6

Legend: build it Legend only

Using 0.1 lb ham, 0.05 lb turkey, and 0.025 lb cheese slices, what is the FEWEST slices that weigh exactly 0.425 lb?

Answer: _____ slices ✓ **5**

Show your thinking:

7 Box 7

Explain comparing

Explain why 0.4 is greater than 0.375, even though 375 is bigger than 4.

Look for: Compares the tenths place; Talks about place value



Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How do we read, compare, and round decimals to the thousandths?

Look for: Each place is 10 times the place to its right: 1 tenth = 10 hundredths = 100 thousandths. To compare decimals, line up the places and compare from the left. To round, look at the digit to the right of the place you are rounding to.



Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
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 Explorer	1AY-E
 Investigator	37W-I
 Legend	1RJ-L

 Watch for these misconceptions

- "Longer decimals are bigger." 0.45 is less than 0.5.
- "Line up the digits on the right when adding." Line up the decimal points.
- "Multiplying always gives a bigger answer." Multiplying by a decimal less than 1 gives a smaller answer.