DECIMALS In decimal form, a rational number either terminates or repeats.
REVIEW FRACTIONS For help with writing fractions as decimals, see p. 916.

For example, $\frac{3}{4}=0.75$ is a terminating decimal, and $\frac{1}{3}=0.333 \ldots$ is a repeating decimal.

## EXAMPLE 2 Classify numbers

Tell whether each of the following numbers is a whole number, an
integer, or a rational number: $5,0.6,-2 \frac{2}{3}$, and -24 .

| JUSTIFY AN ANSWER | Number | Whole number? | Integer? | Rational number? |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 5 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
|  | . $>0.6$ | No | No | Yes |
| rational number because it can be | $-2 \frac{2}{3}$ | No | No | Yes |
| written as a quotient of two integers: $\frac{3}{5}$. | -24 | No | Yes | Yes |

## EXAMPLE 3 Order rational numbers

ASTRONOMY A star's color index is a measure of the temperature of the star. The greater the color index, the cooler the star. Order the stars in the table from hottest to coolest.

| Star | Rigel | Arneb | Denebola | Shaula |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Color index | -0.03 | 0.21 | 0.09 | -0.22 |

## Solution

Begin by graphing the numbers on a number line.


Read the numbers from left to right: $-0.22,-0.03,0.09,0.21$.
From hottest to coolest, the stars are Shaula, Rigel, Denebola, and Arneb.


## GUIDED PRACTICE for Examples 2 and 3

Tell whether each number in the list is a whole number, an integer, or a rational number. Then order the numbers from least to greatest.
4. $3,-1.2,-2,0$
5. $4.5,-\frac{3}{4},-2.1,0.5$
6. $3.6,-1.5,-0.31,-2.8$
7. $\frac{1}{6}, 1.75,-\frac{2}{3}, 0$

