

Consecutive Numbers

Consecutive numbers are numbers which follow each other in order, without gaps.

5, 6, 7 and 8 are consecutive numbers.

Sometimes they are in reverse order when a countdown is happening, maybe for a rocket launch. However, they usually happen in an order going up, like when you turn each page of your reading book.

This investigation uses consecutive numbers. You are going to explore them with your mathematical brain. You never know, you might discover something really exciting!

First:

Choose four consecutive numbers between 1 and 10.

e.g. 3, 4, 5 and 6

\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Second:

Place a plus or minus between each of the chosen four until you have found all the possibilities

e.g.

$$3 + 4 + 5 + 6 =$$

$$3 - 4 + 5 + 6 =$$

$$3 + 4 - 5 + 6 =$$

Third:

Find the answers to each of your calculations.

e.g.

$$3 + 4 + 5 + 6 = 18$$

$$3 - 4 + 5 + 6 = 10$$

Fourth:

What do you notice about each of your answers?

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If you were to repeat this investigation with four different consecutive numbers do you think your answers would be the same?

Explain your answer.

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