

## Work on these with your partner(s) at the board

1. Consider the sum 
$$\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k(k+1)} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{12} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n(n+1)}$$

- (a) Compute the sum for a few values of  $n$
- (b) Form a conjecture for the value of the sum that depends only on  $n$
- (c) Use induction to prove your conjecture

2. The *triangular numbers* are defined by:  $t_1 = 1, \quad t_n = t_{n-1} + n \quad \forall n \geq 2$

(a) Prove that  $8t_n + 1 = (2n + 1)^2 \quad \forall n \geq 1$

(b) Compute  $t_{n-1} + t_n$  for  $n = 1, 2, 3, 4$

Make a conjecture for the value of this sum for all  $n \geq 2$ , and then prove your conjecture

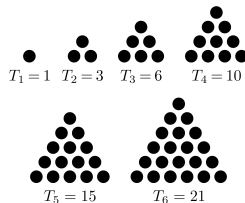


Image source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:First\\_six\\_triangular\\_numbers.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:First_six_triangular_numbers.svg)

3. Determine whether each statement is true or false.

If it is true, then give a proof. If it is false, then provide a counterexample.

(a)  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n^2 + n + 41$  is prime

(b)  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $6n^2 + 1$  is not a perfect square

(c)  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $23n^2 + 1$  is not a perfect square

(d)  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $991n^2 + 1$  is not a perfect square