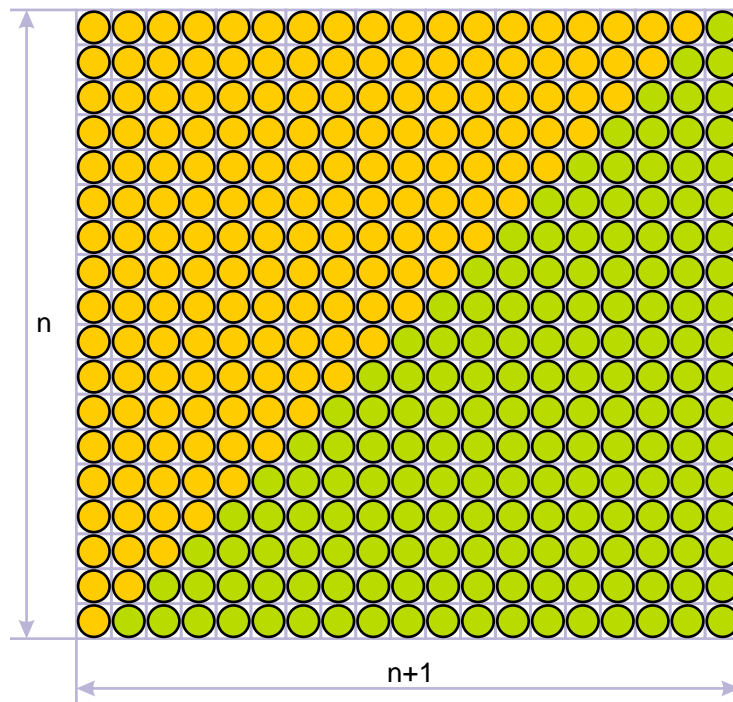
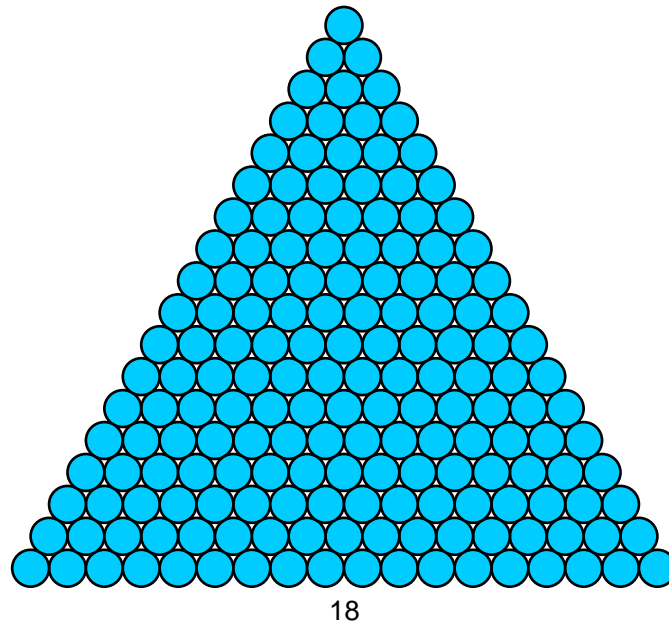


Triangular numbers can be found by stacking a group of objects in equilateral fashion – two objects are placed under one, three objects are placed under the two that are under the one and so on – as shown in the illustration.

The fourth triangular number – 10 – was called the tetraktys by Pythagoras and his followers. They considered it sacred and revered it.

What is so special about the triangular pattern? Can you work out how many objects there are in the eighteenth triangular number?



Triangular numbers are the sum of any number of consecutive positive integers, beginning with 1. The fourth triangular number, 10, equals  $1 + 2 + 3 + 4$ .

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