

ALGEBRAIC THINKING

Sequences



What do I need to be able to do?

By the end of this unit you should be able to:

- Describe and continue both linear and non-linear sequences
- Explain term rules for linear sequence
- Find missing terms in a linear sequence

Keywords

Sequence: items or numbers put in a pre-decided order

Term: a single number or variable

Position: the place something is located

Rule: instructions that relate two variables

Linear: the difference between terms increases or decreases by the same value each time

Non-linear: the difference between terms increases or decreases in different amounts

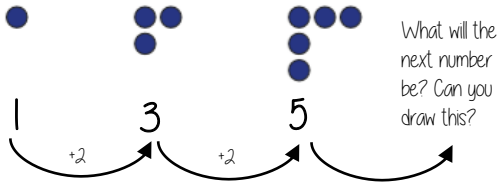
Difference: the gap between two terms

Arithmetic: a sequence where the difference between the terms is constant

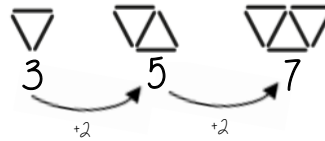
Geometric: a sequence where each term is found by multiplying the previous one by a fixed non zero number

Describe and continue a sequence diagrammatically

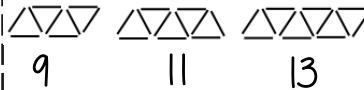
Count the number of circles or lines in each image



Predict and check terms



CHECK - draw the next terms



Predictions:

Look at your pattern and consider how it will increase.

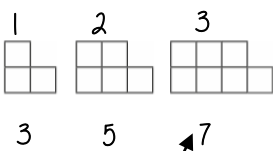
e.g How many lines in pattern 6?

Prediction - 13

If it is increasing by 2 each time - in 3 more patterns there will be 6 more lines

Sequence in a table and graphically

Position: the place in the sequence

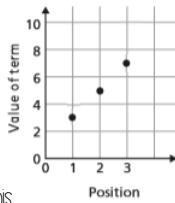


Term: the number or variable (the number of squares in each image)

| Position | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|----------|---|---|---|
| Term | 3 | 5 | 7 |

Because the terms increase by the same addition each time this is **linear** - as seen in the graph

Graphically



"The term in position 3 has 7 squares"

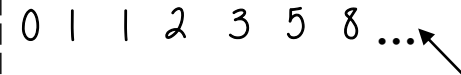
Linear and Non Linear Sequences

Linear Sequences - increase by addition or subtraction and the same amount each time

Non-linear Sequences - do not increase by a constant amount - quadratic, geometric and Fibonacci

- Do not plot as straight lines when modelled graphically
- The differences between terms can be found by addition, subtraction, multiplication or division

Fibonacci Sequence - look out for this type of sequence



Each term is the sum of the previous two terms

Continue Linear Sequences

7, 11, 15, 19...

How do I know this is a linear sequence?

It increases by adding 4 to each term

How many terms do I need to make this conclusion?

At least 4 terms - two terms only shows one difference not if this difference is constant (a common difference)

How do I continue the sequence?

You continue to repeat the same difference through the next positions in the sequence.

Continue non-linear Sequences

1, 2, 4, 8, 16 ...

How do I know this is a non-linear sequence?

It increases by multiplying the previous term by 2 - this is a geometric sequence because the constant is multiply by 2

How many terms do I need to make this conclusion?

At least 4 terms - two terms only shows one difference not if this difference is constant (a common difference)

How do I continue the sequence?

You continue to repeat the same difference through the next positions in the sequence.

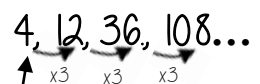
Explain term-to-term rule

Try to explain this in full sentences not just with mathematical notation

Use key maths language - doubles, halves, multiply by two, add four to the previous term etc

To explain a whole sequence you need to include a term to begin at ...

The next term is found by tripling the previous term. The sequence begins at 4.



First term