

Lesson on Pascal's Triangle

Grade Level - 6th grade.

Approximate time - one block or two 40 minute class periods.

Skills practiced - reading for information and meaning, following directions, exploring patterns and number theory topics.

NYS Standards covered - Number and Numeration, and Patterns and Functions.

Note to Teachers: This lesson was designed to be started in the classroom. Students need to work in groups to look for patterns, and they need their desks to color. After an introduction on Pascal's triangle in the classroom and some time to color and make discoveries, then the students are ready to go to the computer to check their answers and read about Blaise Pascal. The more advanced activity is best suited for students in an enriched class, but students in lower ability classes can be shown step by step how to start. A nice activity that you can add is a small questionnaire to fill out about the life of Blaise Pascal, who was also credited with inventing the first calculator to help his father do his taxes.