

In this unit, we shall give a brief, yet more meaningful introduction to the concepts of sets of numbers, the set of real numbers being the most important, and being denoted by  $\mathbb{R}$ .

But first, to get to the real number we start at the set of numbers.

## Natural numbers $\mathbb{N}$

Natural numbers are those who from beginning of time have been used to count. In most countries they have adopted the Arabic numerals, so called because it was the Arabs who introduced them in Europe, but it was in India where they were invented.

The set of natural numbers is denoted as  $\mathbb{N}$ ;

so:

$$\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, \dots\}$$

Natural numbers are characterized by two properties :

1. The number 1 is the first natural number and each natural number is formed by adding 1 to the previous one.
2. When we subtract or divide two natural number, so we say that natural numbers are not closed under these two operations.