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Given $\{1, 2, 3, \ldots\}$
what do we do next?

Ans: Fiddle with what we have.

What is the 2nd successor of 1? of 2? etc.
What is the k^{th} successor of n?

These questions lead to the discovery of the operation of addition on $\mathbb{N}$. Since this operation is one-to-one it can (often) be inverted. Hence