Fun with Binomial Coefficients

Name:

Date:

1. <u>Theorem 9</u>: For any positive integer n, $(x + y)^n = \sum_{r=0}^n \binom{n}{r} x^{n-r} y^r$. Use Theorem 9 to show that:

a.
$$\sum_{r=0}^{n} {n \choose r} = 2^n$$

b.
$$\sum_{r=0}^{n} (-1)^r \binom{n}{r} = 0$$

c.
$$\sum_{r=0}^{n} (a-1)^r \binom{n}{r} = a^n$$

2. <u>Theorem 11</u>: For any positive integer n and r=1,2,...,n-1, then $\binom{n}{r} = \binom{n-1}{r} + \binom{n-1}{r-1}$.

Prove Theorem 11 by expressing all the binomial coefficients in terms of factorials and then simplifying algebraically.