

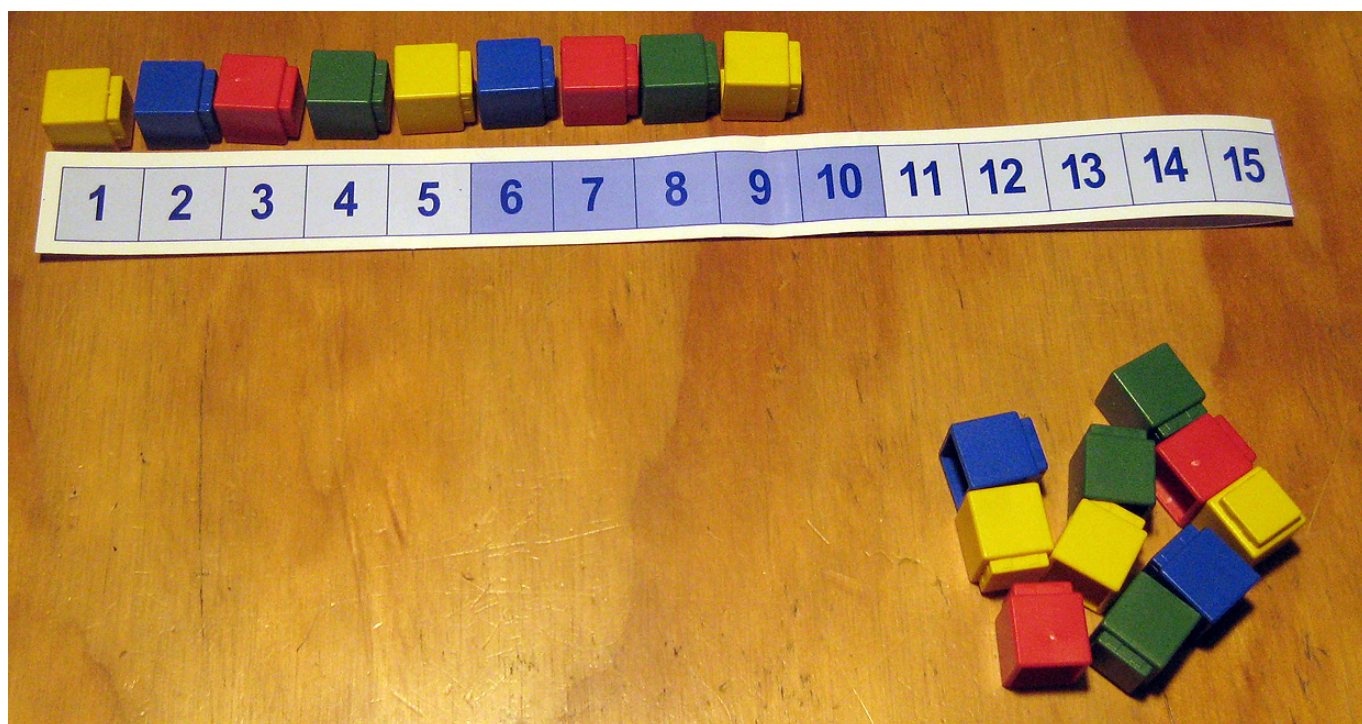
Coloured cubes

Annotation

Arnie can identify the unit of repeat (yellow, blue, red, green) and continue the pattern. He recognises that there are four elements in the pattern and uses this to work out and describe an element in a given ordinal position.

Problem: Coloured cubes

The teacher shows the student this number strip with different-coloured cubes lined up along it in a pattern and makes extra cubes available.



Then the teacher poses this problem:

What colour cube goes on number 13 in this pattern? How do you know?

Student Response

Arnie: (beginning at the first cube and running his finger beside the cubes while talking quietly to himself) Yellow, blue, red, green, yellow, blue, red, green, yellow, blue, red, green - Yellow!

Teacher: Is there another way you could find out?

Arnie: Well there are four colours, and the fours end at 4 and at 8 and at 12, so 13 has to be yellow because the pattern is starting again.