If $n = 1$ this reduces to the statement that $\frac{1}{2} < \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$ which is obviously true. Suppose then that the inequality holds for n. Then

$$\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{3}{4} \cdots \frac{2n-1}{2n} \cdot \frac{2n+1}{2n+2} < \frac{1}{\sqrt{2n+1}} \frac{2n+1}{2n+2} = \frac{\sqrt{2n+1}}{2n+2}.$$

The theorem will be proved if this last expression is less than $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2n+3}}$. This happens if and only if

$$\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2n+3}}\right)^2 = \frac{1}{2n+3} > \frac{2n+1}{(2n+2)^2}$$

which occurs if and only if $(2n+2)^2 > (2n+3)(2n+1)$ and this is clearly true which may be seen from expanding both sides. This proves the inequality.

Lets review the process just used. If S is the set of integers at least as large as 1 for which the formula holds, the first step was to show $1 \in S$ and then that whenever $n \in S$, it follows $n + 1 \in S$. Therefore, by the principle of mathematical induction, S contains $[1, \infty) \cap \mathbb{Z}$, all positive integers. In doing an inductive proof of this sort, the set, S is normally not mentioned. One just verifies the steps above. First show the thing is true for some $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ and then verify that whenever it is true for m it follows it is also true for $m + 1$. When this has been done, the theorem has been proved for all $m \geq a$.

Definition 2.7.6 *The Archimedean property states that whenever $x \in \mathbb{R}$, and $a > 0$, there exists $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $na > x$.*

This is not hard to believe. Just look at the number line. Imagine the intervals $[0, a), [a, 2a), [2a, 3a), \cdots$. If $x < 0$, you could consider a and it would be larger than x. If $x \geq 0$, surely, it is reasonable to suppose that x would be on one of these intervals, say $[pa, (p + 1) a)$. This Archimedean property is quite important because it shows every fixed real number is smaller than some integer. It also can be used to verify a very important property of the rational numbers.

Axiom 2.7.7 *$\mathbb{R}$ has the Archimedean property.*

Theorem 2.7.8 *Suppose $x < y$ and $y - x > 1$. Then there exists an integer, $l \in \mathbb{Z}$, such that $x < l < y$. If x is an integer, there is no integer y satisfying $x < y < x + 1$.*

Proof: Let x be the smallest positive integer. Not surprisingly, $x = 1$ but this can be proved. If $x < 1$ then $x^2 < x$ contradicting the assertion that x is the smallest natural number. Therefore, 1 is the smallest natural number. This shows there is no integer y, satisfying $x < y < x + 1$ since otherwise, you could subtract x and conclude $0 < y - x < 1$ for some integer $y - x$.

Now suppose $y - x > 1$ and let $S \equiv \{w \in \mathbb{N} : w \geq y\}$. The set S is nonempty by the Archimedean property. Let k be the smallest element of S. Therefore, $k - 1 < y$. Either $k - 1 \leq x$ or $k - 1 > x$. If $k - 1 \leq x$, then

$$y - x \leq y - (k - 1) = \overbrace{y - k}^{\leq 0} + 1 \leq 1$$

contrary to the assumption that $y - x > 1$. Therefore, $x < k - 1 < y$ and this proves the theorem with $l = k - 1$. ■

It is the next theorem which gives the density of the rational numbers. This means that for any real number, there exists a rational number arbitrarily close to it.

Theorem 2.7.9 *If $x < y$ then there exists a rational number r such that $x < r < y$.*