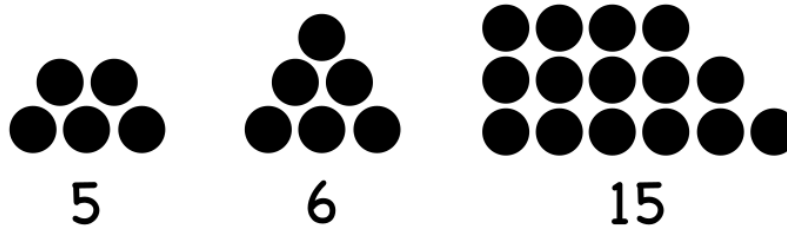


Puzzle of the Week

Trapezoidal Numbers – 5

Trapezoidal Numbers are the sum of two or more consecutive numbers. They deserve their name because you can make a trapezoid with that many dots, as pictured in the examples below. Note that having 1 dot on the top row is stretching the idea of being a trapezoid a bit, but it is allowed for these numbers.



THE CHALLENGE: Find one number between 100 and 200 that is not a Trapezoidal Number.



EXPLORATION: Trapezoidal Numbers are one example of what are called Figurate Numbers. A **Figurate Number** is a number that when that many dots are put in a special pattern, they make an interesting figure or shape. Triangular Numbers and Square Numbers are two other examples of Figurate Numbers. Can you think of other shapes of groups of dots that would deserve being called a Figurate Number?