

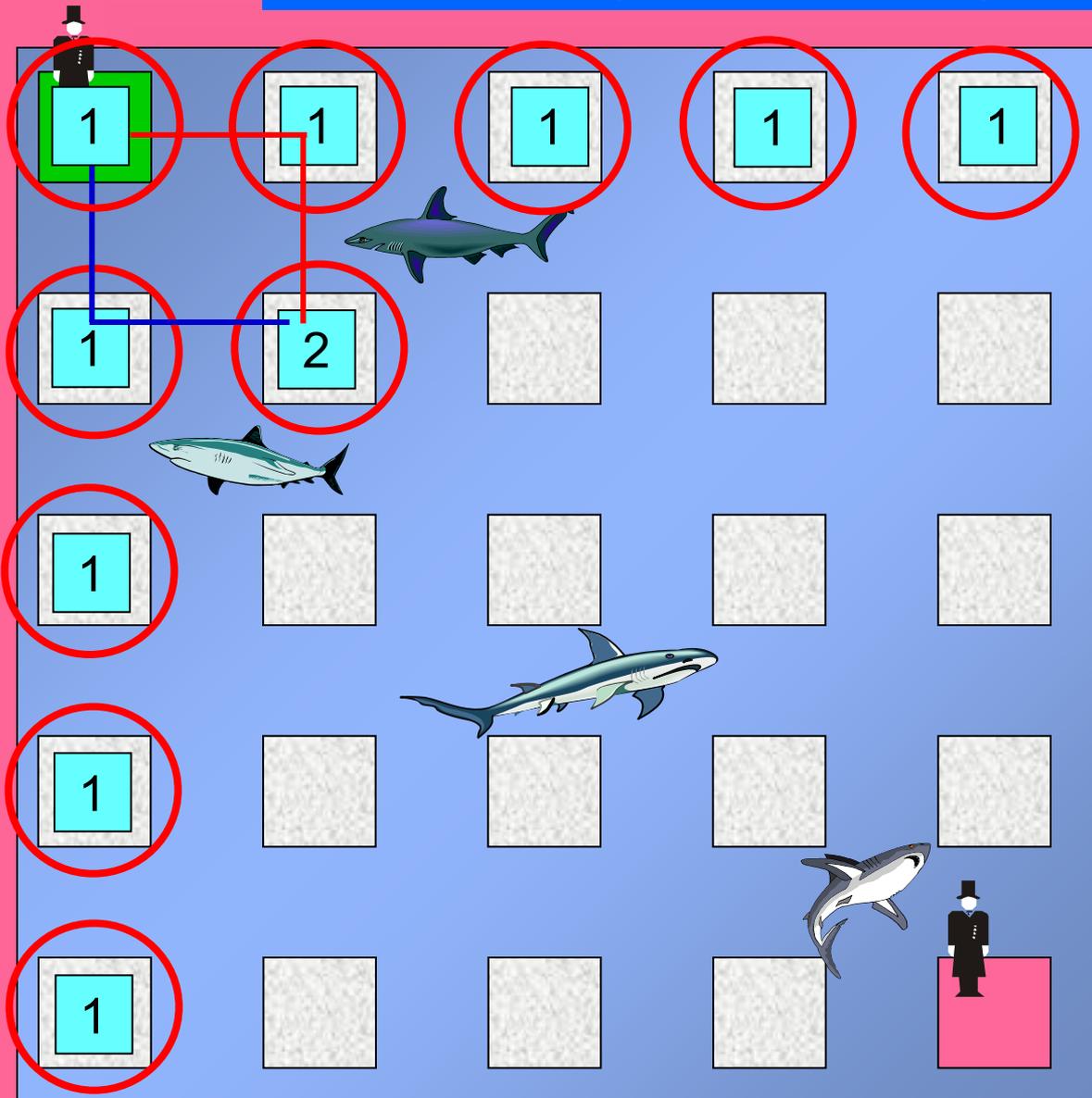
# Pascal's Triangle

Paul Kennedy,  
Mike Crowley

<http://cs.txstate.edu/~ch04/webtest/itest/curr/curr2/math/PascalsTriangleLaCosta.ppt>

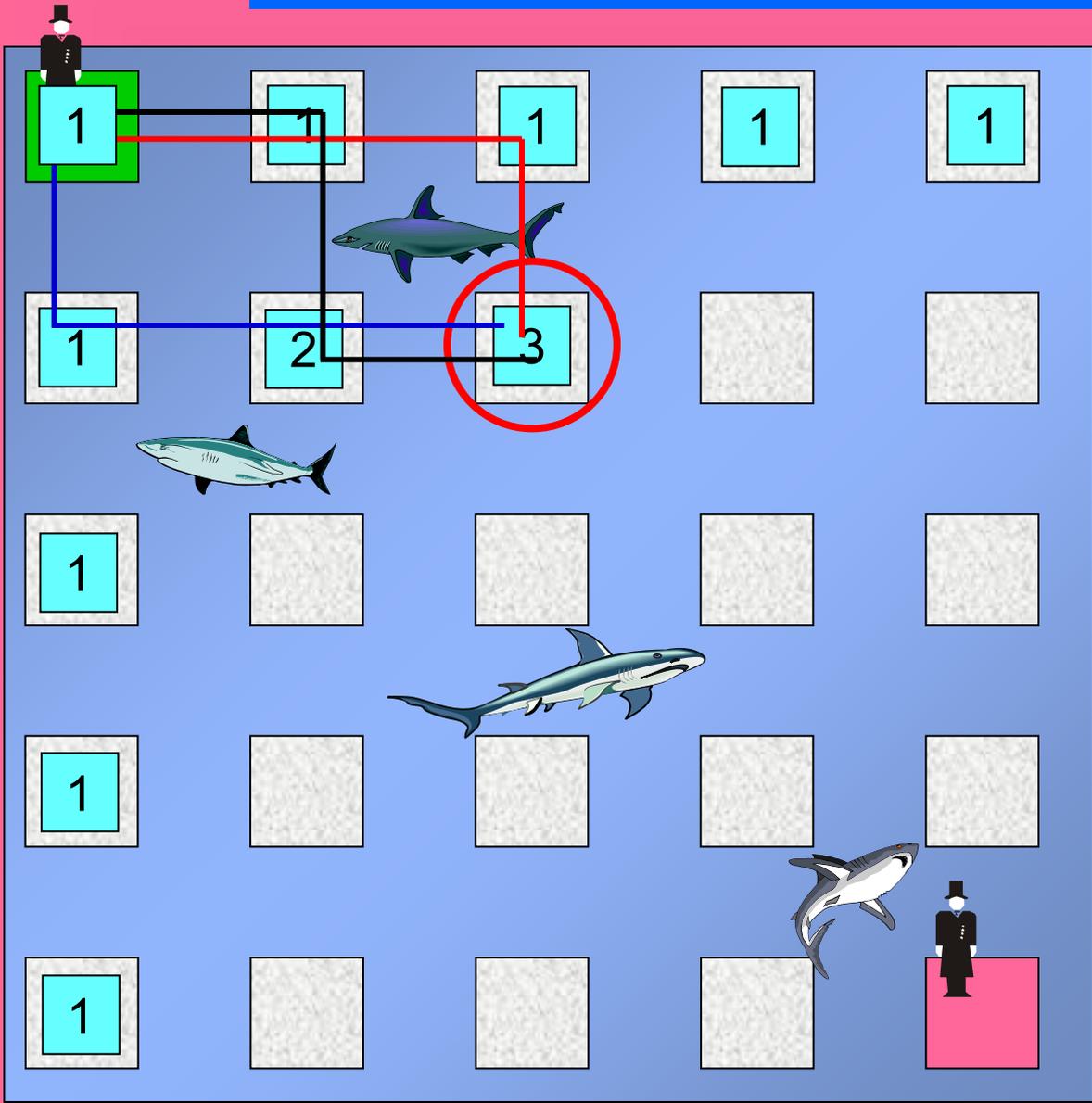


# Pascal's Triangle: The Stepping Stone Game



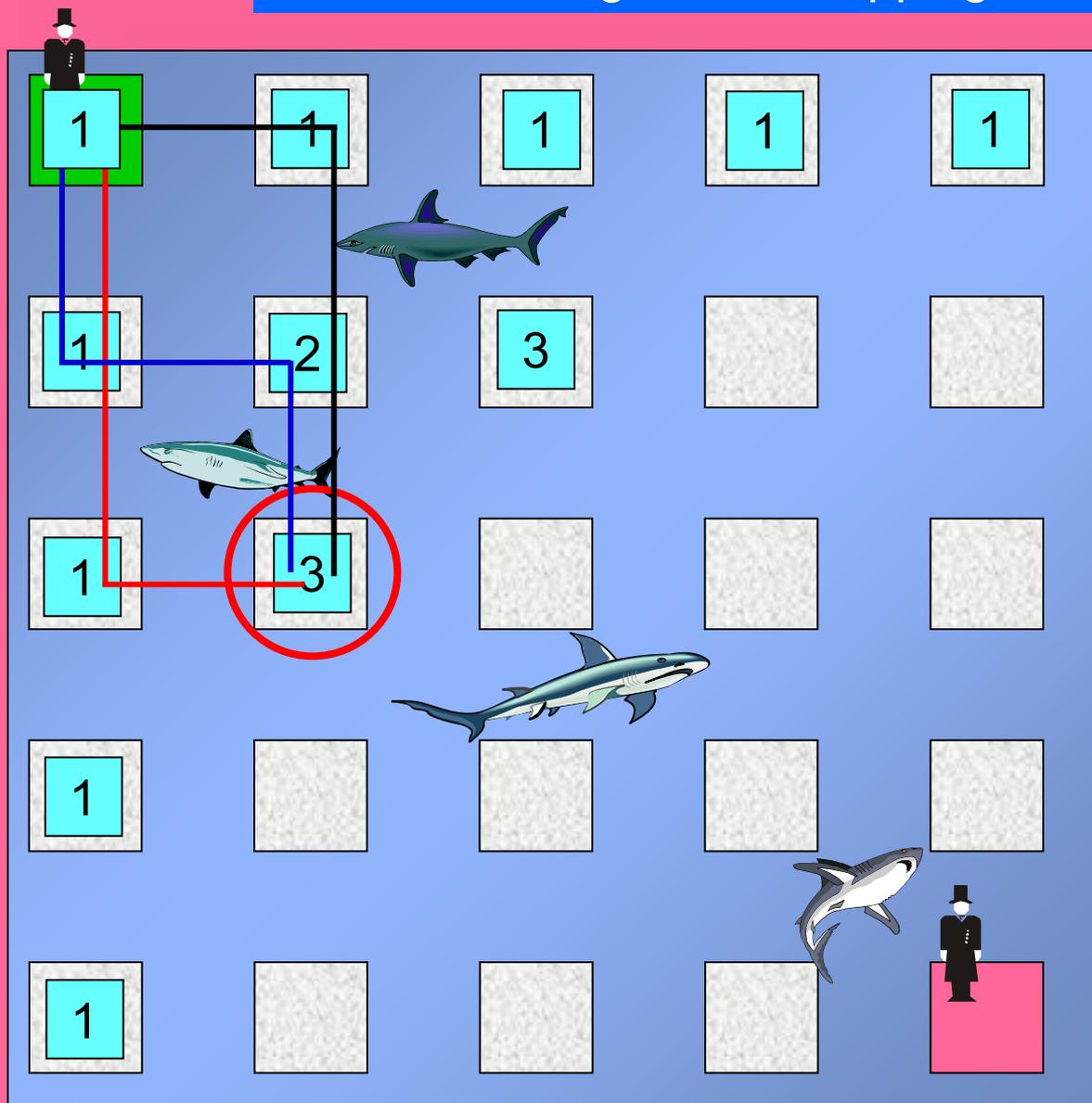
How many routes are there to:

# Pascal's Triangle: The Stepping Stone Game



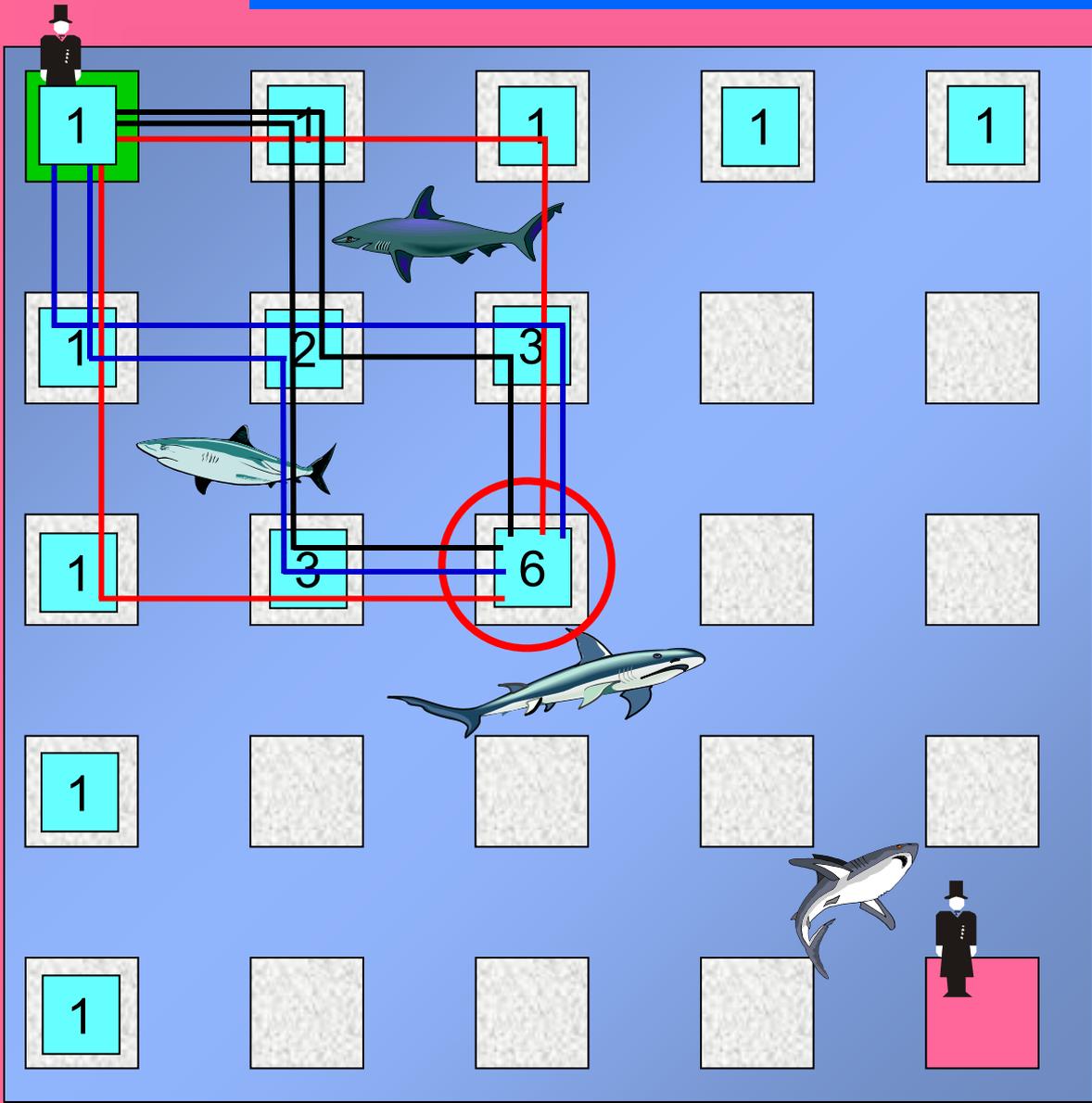
How many routes are there to:

# Pascal's Triangle: The Stepping Stone Game



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# Pascal's Triangle: The Stepping Stone Game

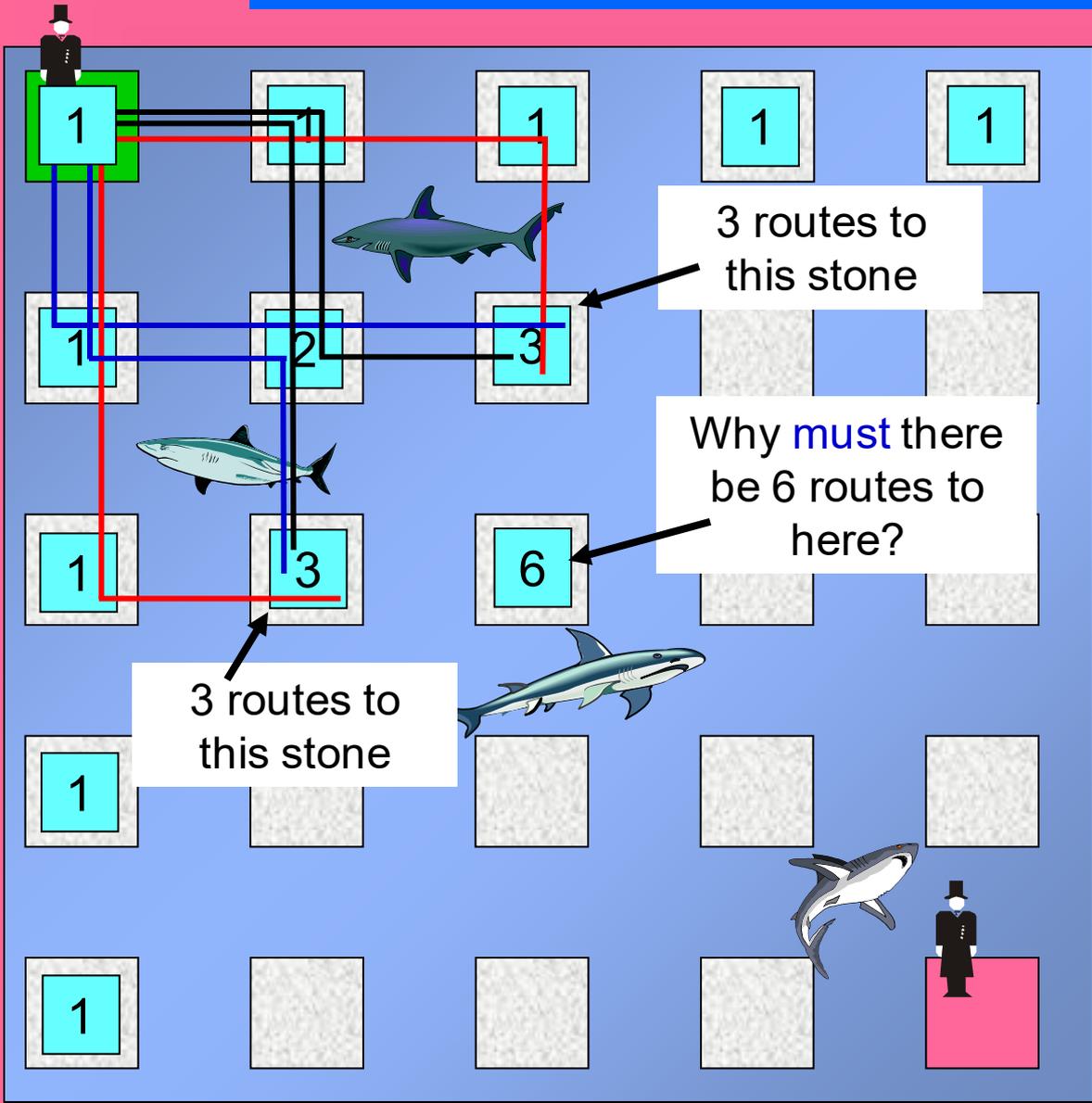


How many routes are there to:

Can you see all 6 of the routes?

How could you have calculated the 6 routes without the need to draw or visualise them?

# Pascal's Triangle: The Stepping Stone Game



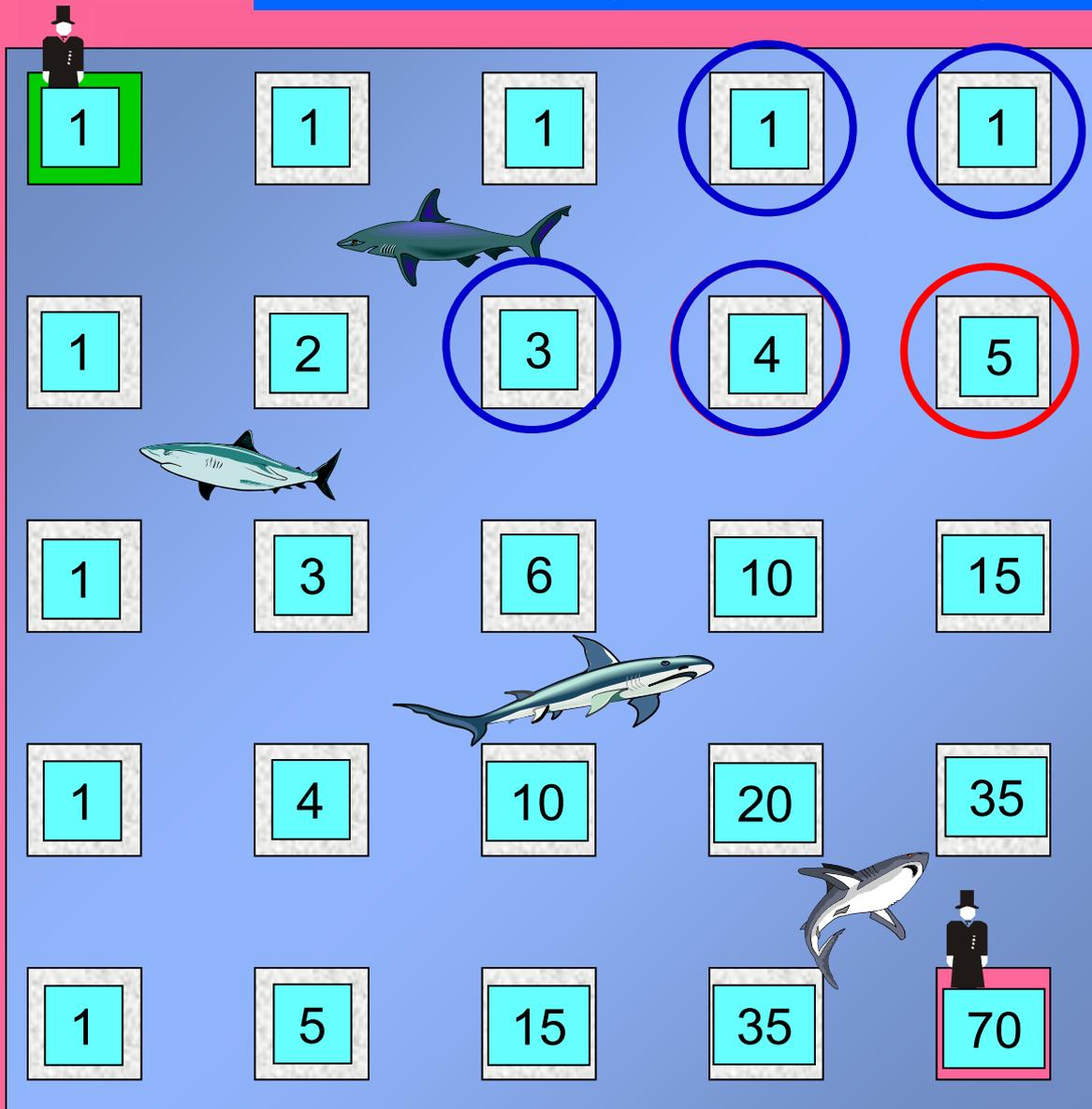
How many routes are there to:

Can you see all 6 of the routes?

How could you have calculated the 6 routes without the need to draw or visualise them?

What do you have to do to get the number of routes to **any** stone?

# Pascal's Triangle: The Stepping Stone Game



How many routes are there to:

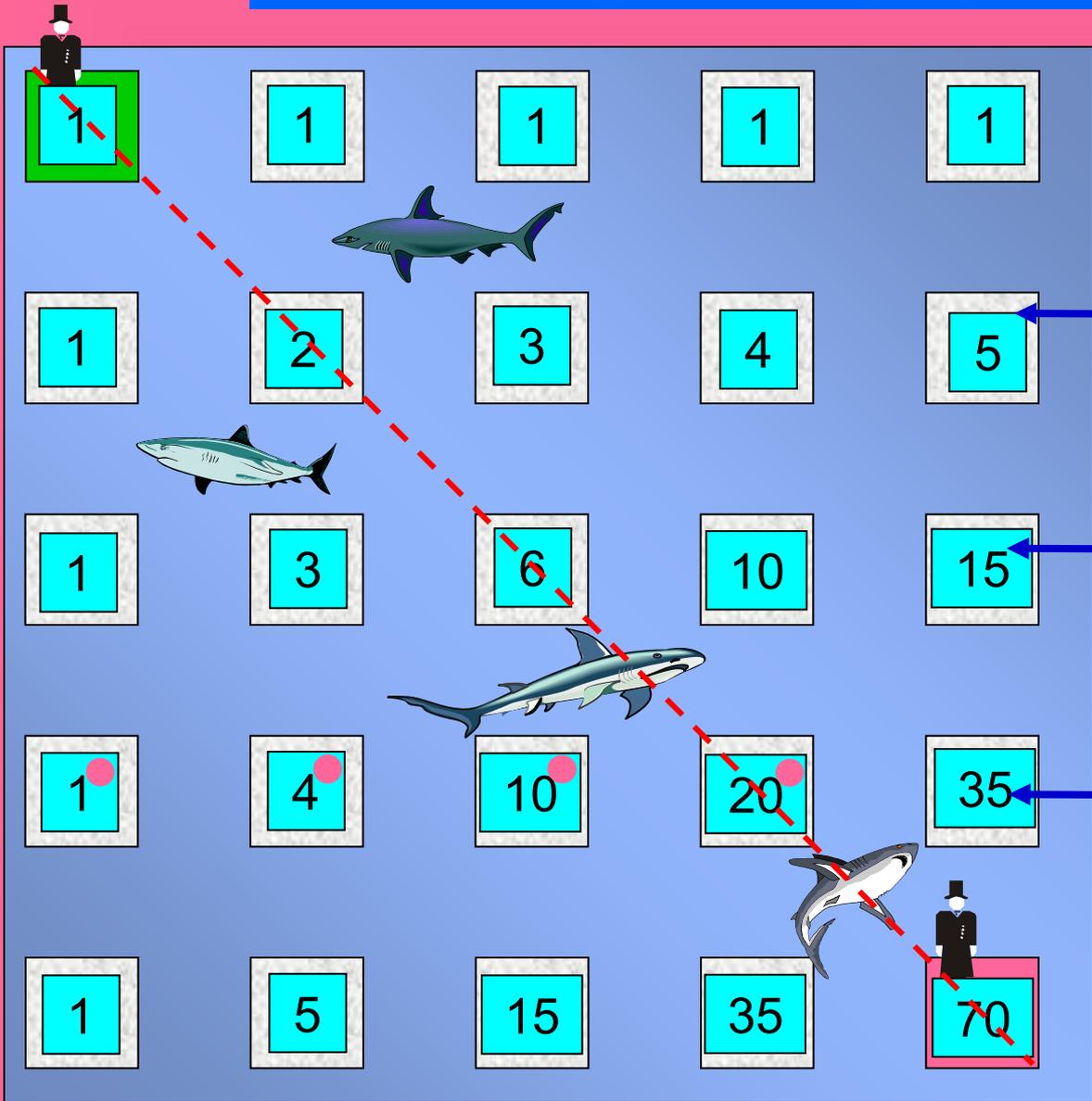
Can you see all 6 of the routes?

How could you have calculated the 6 routes without the need to draw or visualising them?

What do you have to do to get the number of routes to **any** stone?

Calculate the total number of routes to the finish stone.

# Pascal's Triangle: The Stepping Stone Game



The numbers are symmetrical about the diagonal. Do you notice anything about the numbers produced by the routes through to the finish stone?

Counting numbers

Triangular numbers

Tetrahedral numbers

Square base Pyramid numbers

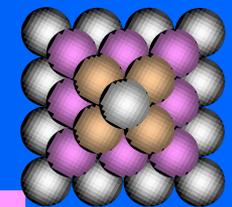
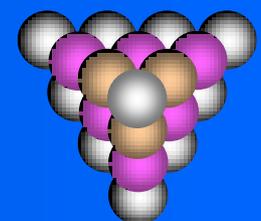
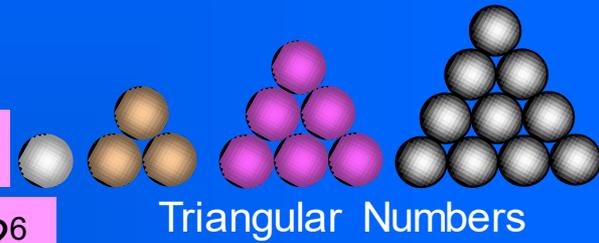
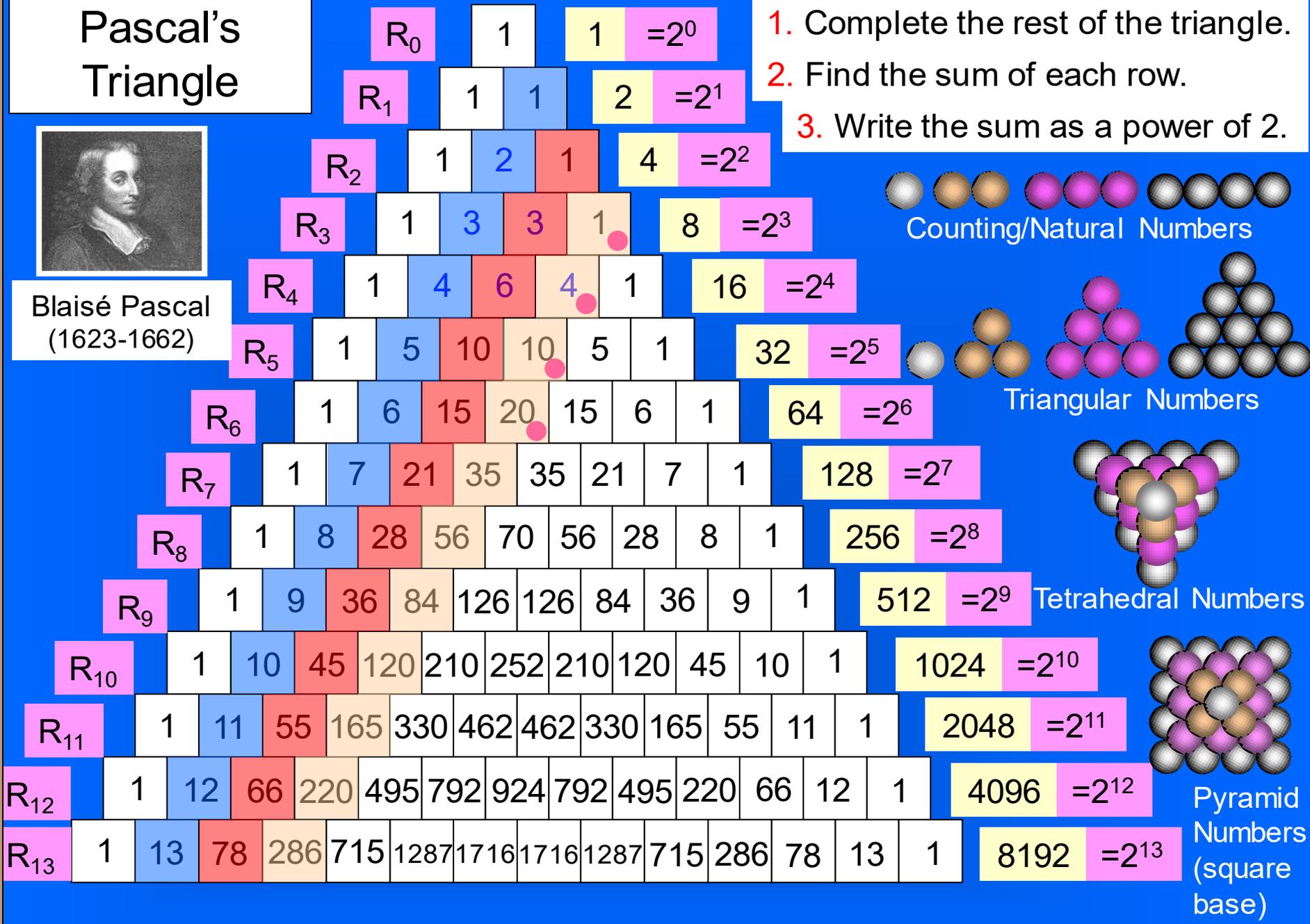
1	5	14	30
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# Pascal's Triangle



Blaise Pascal  
(1623-1662)

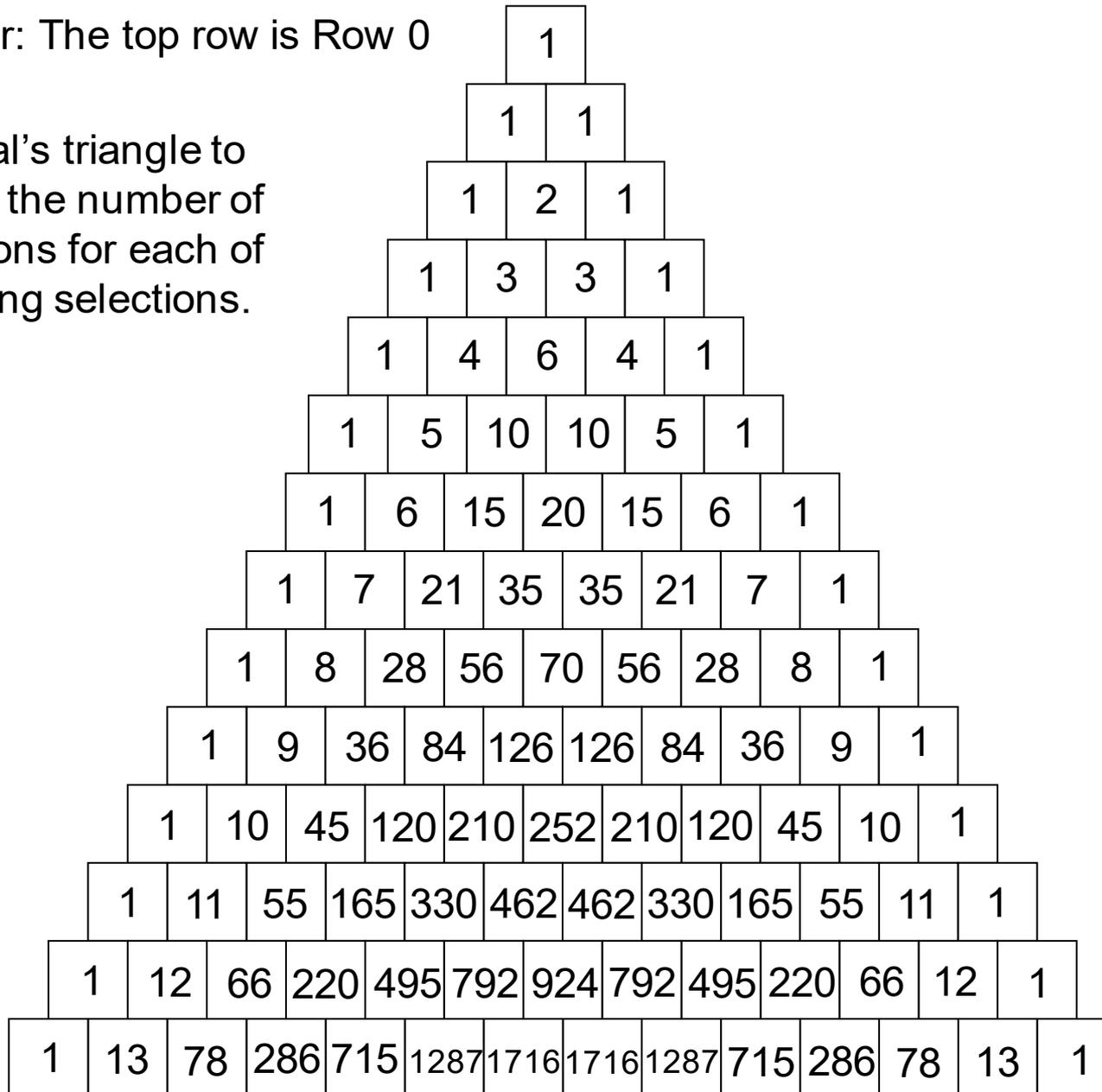
1. Complete the rest of the triangle.
2. Find the sum of each row.
3. Write the sum as a power of 2.





Remember: The top row is Row 0

Use Pascal's triangle to determine the number of combinations for each of the following selections.



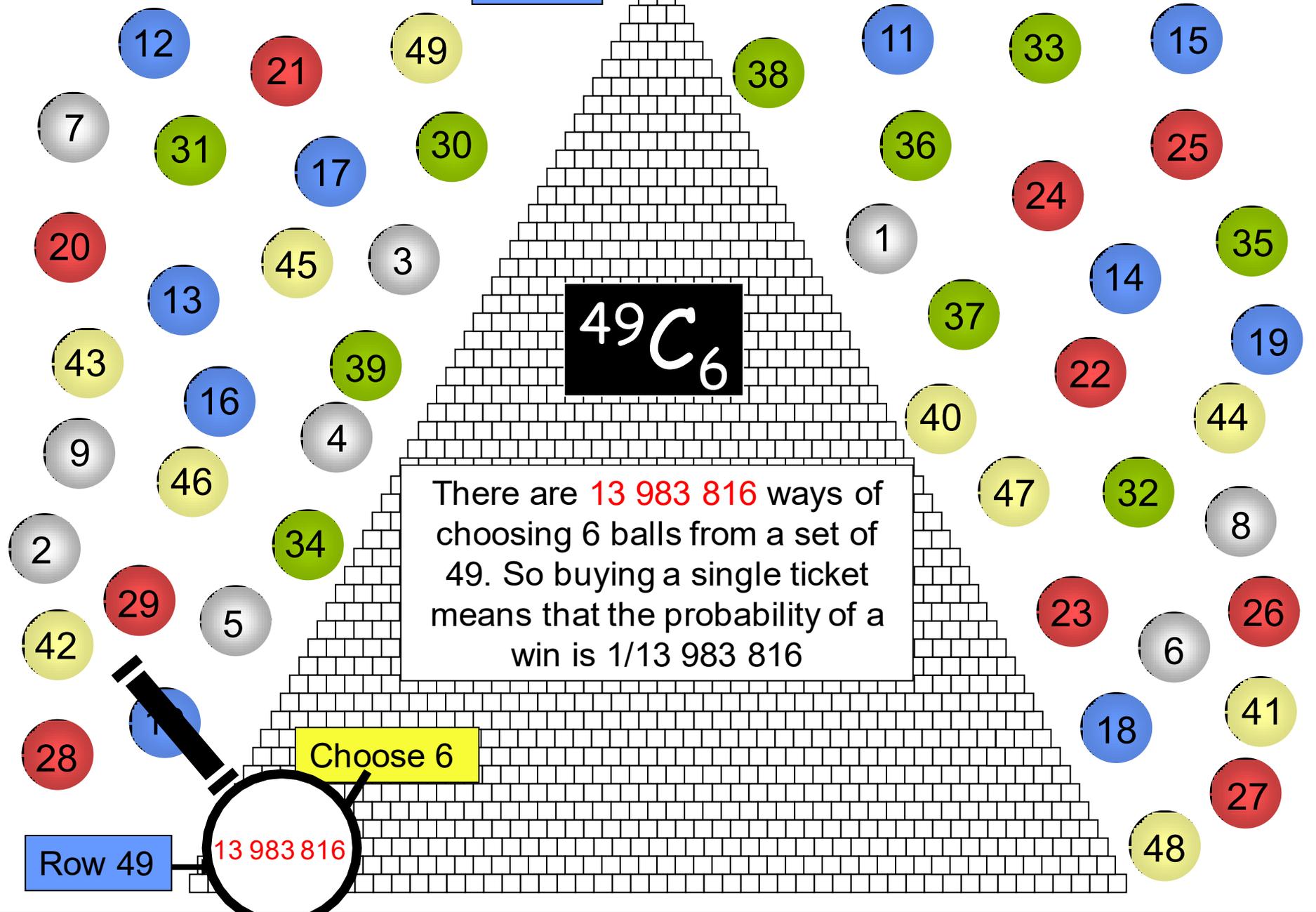




National Lottery Jackpot?

Row 0 →

49 balls choose 6



$$49C_6$$

There are **13 983 816** ways of choosing 6 balls from a set of 49. So buying a single ticket means that the probability of a win is  $1/13\,983\,816$

Choose 6

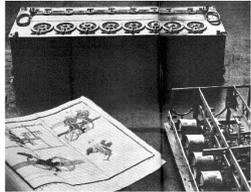
Row 49

**13 983 816**

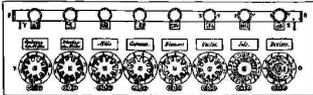
## Historical Note



Blaisé Pascal  
(1623-1662)



The Pascaline



Pierre de Fermat  
(1601 – 1675)

**Pascal** was a French mathematician whose contemporaries and fellow countrymen included **Fermat**, **Descartes** and **Mersenne**. Among his many achievements was the construction of a mechanical calculating machine to help his father with his business. It was able to add and subtract only, but it was a milestone on the road to the age of computers.

He corresponded with Fermat on problems that led to the new branch of mathematics called Probability Theory. The two problems that they examined concerned outcomes when throwing dice and how to divide the stake fairly amongst a group of players if a game was interrupted.

These investigations led Pascal to construct tables of probabilities that eventually led to the triangle of probabilities that bears his name.



# Pascal's Triangle: The Stepping Stone Game

