Choose four consecutive whole numbers.
Multiply the first and last numbers together.
Multiply the middle pair together.

Choose several different sets of four consecutive whole numbers and do the same.

What do you notice?

Can you explain what you have noticed?
Will it always happen?

Here are some more questions to consider.

Compare the product of the first and last numbers with the product of the second and penultimate numbers when you have:

- **5** consecutive whole numbers

- **6, 7, 8, ... x** consecutive whole numbers

- **4** consecutive even numbers

- **4** consecutive odd numbers

- **5, 6, 7, 8, ... x** consecutive even or odd numbers

- **4** consecutive multiples of **3, 4, 5, ...**

- Decimals that differ by **1,** such as **1.2, 2.2, 3.2, 4.2**

- Four numbers going up in **3**s, such as **2, 5, 8, 11**

- Four numbers going up in $\frac{1}{2}$s, such as **4, 4$\frac{1}{2}$, 5, 5$\frac{1}{2}$**

What do you notice?
Can you explain what you have noticed?

Make up a few similar questions of your own. Impress your friends by giving them a calculator and 'predicting' what will happen