

► RAMPANT RABBITS

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	2	3	5	8	13	21	34	55	89	144	233

This sequence of numbers above shows the number of rabbit pairs in each month. The total number of pairs at the end of the year is 233.

Can you discover the secret pattern behind this number sequence and continue it further? The answer is that each number is the sum of the two numbers before it.

This sequence, resulting from a manmade recreational puzzle, proved of enormous interest to

mathematicians, and even today it plays an important role not only in mathematics, but in science as well.

The “Fibonacci number sequence,” as the sequence is today called, has a mysterious relationship with the golden ratio, spiral, rectangle, and triangle, all of which are part of a recurring growth pattern; but the “how” and the “why” still remain a complete mystery.

And all this from a 13th-century puzzle dealing with breeding pairs of rabbits!