

Many people have written about the occurrence of Fibonacci numbers in nature. In *The (Fabulous) Fibonacci Numbers*, math educators Alfred Posamentier and Ingmar Lehmann describe how the Fibonacci numbers occur in dozens of different patterns in the natural world.

The Fibonacci sequence has captivated people’s imaginations for centuries. The Fibonacci Association meets regularly to share ideas about the Fibonacci sequence. One way to describe the sequence is, “It looks at itself, it looks at its most recent past, puts them together, and evolves to the next number.”

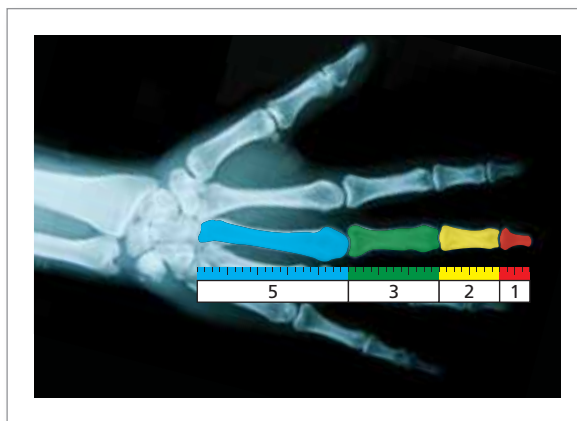
**EXAMPLE 2 Recognizing a Fibonacci Pattern**

Look at the X-ray of the human hand. Describe how the Fibonacci sequence is related to the X-ray.



**SOLUTION**

By looking at the lengths of the bones in the X-ray, you can observe part of the Fibonacci sequence.



**✓ Checkpoint**

The triangle of numbers shown is called Pascal’s Triangle, after the French mathematician Blaise Pascal.

- a. Describe the pattern in Pascal’s Triangle.
- b. Describe how the Fibonacci sequence is related to Pascal’s triangle.

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