

# Triangle Sums Puzzle

By Janelle Findlay

**Level:** Elementary Grades (Grades 3 and up)

**Concepts:** Problem Solving, Number Sense, Computational Fluency

**Materials:**

Pencil and Paper or Whiteboard and Whiteboard Marker

**Introduction:**

Most three-year olds can recite the first nine digits of our number system. And, the first operation we learn as young children is addition. Let's take these two concepts and explore the beauty that can emerge when we play around with them in puzzle form.

**Challenge:**

**Using all the digits 1 through 9, can you make each side of the triangle have the same sum?**

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

\*If a further challenge is desired, have all the digits be negative.

\*\*There is more than one answer, and more than one sum.

**Extension Question:** If you find a solution that works, what do you notice about the three corner digits?

This question was adapted from: <http://www.solving-math-problems.com/math-puzzle-triangle.html>