

Prove that the product of 4 consecutive natural numbers cannot be a perfect square.

Product of
Four
Consecutive
Numbers

$$= f(n) = n(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)$$

Try some values:

n	1	2	3	7
$f(n)$	24	120	360	840

Notice: $f(n) = \text{square number} - 1$

$$f(n) + 1 = n(n+1)(n+2)(n+3) + 1$$

$$= [n(n+3)][(n+1)(n+2)] + 1$$

$$= [n^2 + 3n][n^2 + 3n + 2] + 1$$

$$= [(n^2 + 3n + 1) - 1][(n^2 + 3n + 1) + 1] + 1$$

$$= (n^2 + 3n + 1)^2 - 1 + 1$$

$$= (n^2 + 3n + 1)^2$$

$$\therefore f(n) = (n^2 + 3n + 1)^2 - 1$$

so it cannot be a perfect square