

The positive integers $1, 2, 3, \dots, 1000$ are written on a blackboard. The following process is then performed repeatedly:

Pick at random two numbers from the board, say u and v . Erase u and v and then write on the board the number $uv + u + v$.

Thus, with each repetition of the above, the number of numbers on the board decreases by one. Continue this process until there is just one number left on the board. Describe completely the set of possibilities for this last number, and prove that your result is correct.