

PPMTC-October 20, 2009

BUILDING BLOCKS LESSON

By: Colleen Starkey and Michelle Petrash

Materials:

- centimeter cubes
- graph paper

Objectives:

- Represent relations as sets of ordered pairs, tables and graphs.
- Recognize patterns for the nth term.

Activity:

Step 1- Use centimeter cubes to build the first figure.

Step 2- On your table write the figure number and the amount of cubes it took to build it.

Step 3- Repeat steps with the next figure until you have reached figure #5.

Step 4- Answer the following questions:

As the figure number increases, what happens to the number of blocks?
How many cubes would be in the nth figure and why?

Step 5- Write the data in your table as ordered pairs and graph.

From here you can either continue or have each individual or group do the rest of them, or you can assign one for each group to complete and present.

Extensions:

You can make the difficulty on these patterns as easy or hard as you like. You can also add on the idea of surface area or volume.