

*Comparing Volumes of Prisms and Pyramids*

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Natalya Vinogradova graduated from Leningrad State University and earned a Ph.D. in mathematics education at SUNY Buffalo. She currently works as an associate professor in the Mathematics Department at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire. In addition to teaching mathematics to prospective teachers, she is interested in working with in service teachers and frequently offers workshops and courses for professional development. The main goal of her work is to promote the view of mathematics as a harmonious world of logically connected ideas.

Students' experience in using formulas for volumes is often limited to substituting numbers into given formulas. An activity presented in this article may help students make connections between the formulas for volumes of prisms and volumes of pyramids. In addition, some interesting facts from number theory arise, demonstrating strong connections between different areas of mathematics. A set of identical cubical building blocks, preferably in two colors, will be needed to complete the constructions described.