

 Activity 16.14 FIXED VOLUME: COMPARING PRISMS

Give each pair of students a supply of centimeter cubes or wooden cubes. Their task is to use 64 (or 36) cubes to build different rectangular prisms and record the surface area for each prism formed in a table. If you have ELLs, provide a visual of a rectangular solid, labeling all the key words they will need for the lesson (*length, width, height, surface area, cube, volume, side*). Using the tables students construct, they should observe any patterns that occur. Eventually compare the dimensions of the prisms they have recorded to the surface area of each as the prism becomes less like a tall, skinny box and more like a cube.

From Van de Walle et. al. (2014). *Teaching Student-Centered Mathematics Grades: Developmentally Appropriate Instruction for Grades 3 – 5* (2nd Ed.). Toronto: Pearson Education, Inc. (p. 332).