Vocabulary: Balancing Blocks



**Vocabulary**

* Area – the size of a flat figure or object.
	+ Area describes only two-dimensional figures.
	+ Area is measured in square units such as square centimeters (cm2) or square inches (in2).
	+ The area of a rectangle is equal to the *product* of its length and width.
* Balance – stability produced by equal weights on either side of a point or line.
	+ In the image at right, the blocks are balanced on a platform that sits on the tip of a cone.
* Dimension – a measurement in one direction.
	+ A *rectangular prism* can be described by three dimensions: *length*, *width*, and *height*.

****

**Triangular prism (left) and rectangular prism (right)**

* Prism – a regular solid with the following characteristics:
	+ The top and bottom faces, called *bases*, are the same size and shape.
	+ The faces on the sides of the prism are all either rectangles or parallelograms.
	+ The *edges* that connect the bases are all parallel to each other.
* Product – the result of multiplying numbers.
	+ For example, the product of and 3 and 4 is 12 because 3 × 4 = 12.
* Rectangular prism­ – a prism with rectangular bases.
	+ Boxes and bricks are examples of rectangular prisms.
* Volume – the amount of space taken up by an object.
	+ Volume is similar to area, but is measured in three dimensions.
	+ Volume of solids is measured in cubic units such as cubic centimeters (cm3) or cubic inches (in3).