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Building numbers from primes.

Math. Teach. Middle Sch. 15, No. 3, 156-167 (2009).

Summary: Prime numbers are often described as the "building blocks" of natural numbers. This article shows how the author and his students took this idea literally by using prime factorizations to build numbers with blocks. In this activity, students explore many concepts of number theory, including the relationship between greatest common factors and least common multiples. (Contains 15 figures.) (ERIC)

Classification: F63 U63

Keywords: numbers; number concepts; divisibility; prime numbers; learning activities; mathematical concepts; middle school students; secondary school mathematics; manipulative materials; teaching methods