Constructing Prisms

CCSS K.G.5, 1.G.1

MATERIALS:

-Play clay
-Toothpicks
-Geometric solids

Pass out some **play clay** and **toothpicks** to each student. Have students create a number of small play clay spheres by rolling them between their palms. For best results, the spheres should be about 1/4 to 1/2 inch in diameter.

Have the class start creating prisms by first making two bases of a polygon (i.e., square, triangle, pentagon, hexagon etc… .) The bases should be as close to the same size and shape as possible. After finishing two bases of the prism, have them vertically attach toothpicks to them to complete the prism.

Write the word *prism* on the board and ask students if they know the definition of the word. Show them some examples of **geometric solids** and take out those that are prisms.

? Can they tell you why they are prisms?

Prisms are 3-dimensional figures that have two identical opposite faces or bases. A prism is named by the shape of its base. So there are triangular prisms, hexagonal prisms, pentagonal prisms, etc…

Students should make at least two prisms with the play clay spheres and toothpicks.