

Algeblocks

Drew Moore
Rookie Math Teacher @ Bloomington High School
e-mail: moorea@district87.org
phone: 828-5201 ext. 5130

"All students should learn algebra."
(NCTM Principles and Standards, 2000 ed. P37)

A strong knowledge of algebra and the problem solving strategies used in algebra is essential to a student's success in future high school and college math courses as well as in life. As we all know, each student learns differently. For students who learn visually, abstract thinking involved in algebra can be extremely challenging.

Algeblocks provide a visual approach to learning procedures involving polynomials and integers. Learning how to combine like terms, add, subtract multiply, divide, and factor polynomials can be a tedious process for students when the procedures they encounter are taught using only a symbolic representation. Using Algeblocks allows many students, especially visual learners, to gain a better understanding of what algebraic procedures accomplish.

To make your introduction to Algeblocks a little less intimidating, here are some resources to help...

1. Elem Algeblocks → An introduction to assigning variables to quantities and representing basic operations with both integers and variables.
2. Algeblocks for grades 4-9 → An extension of Elem Algeblocks that includes multiplication of polynomials (esp. binomials and trinomials).
3. HS Algeblocks → An extension of both of the above. This packet focuses especially on the multiplication, division, and FACTORING of polynomials.
4. Algeblocks Cheat Sheet → A sheet formatted for a 5 x 8 notecard with "life-sized" blocks, their names, and some rules for working with blocks.
5. Multiplication/Factoring Workspace → A sheet designed as a paper version of the workspace designed by ETA for multiplying and factoring.\
6. Algeblocks Theory → Questions raised at previous Algeblock presentations regarding standards and pedagogy.

For further educational and purchasing information regarding Algeblocks, visit
<http://www.etaquisenaire.com/>
or call 1-800-445-5985

or visit booth **#327** at the NCTM Conference in Vegas, 2002
Special thanks to ETA/Cuisenaire for providing sample sets of Algeblocks!!