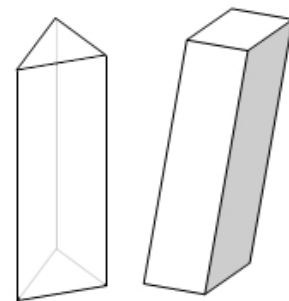
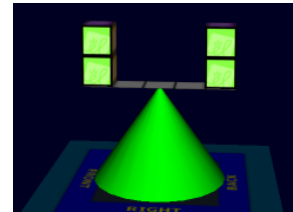


## Vocabulary: Balancing Blocks

### 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 ( $\text{cm}^2$ ) or square inches ( $\text{in}^2$ ).
  - 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*.
- **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 3 and 4 is 12 because  $3 \times 4 = 12$ .
- **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 ( $\text{cm}^3$ ) or cubic inches ( $\text{in}^3$ ).



Triangular prism (left) and rectangular prism (right)