



# 5.MD,OA You Can Multiply Three Numbers in Any Order

## Task

Make sure you have plenty of snap cubes. \* Build a rectangular prism that is 2 cubes high, 3 cubes wide, and 5 cubes long. \* We will say that the volume of one cube is 1 cubic unit. What is the volume of the rectangular prism? \* The volume of the cube is  $2 \times 3 \times 5$  cubic units. The expression

$$2 \times (3 \times 5)$$

can be interpreted as 2 groups with  $3 \times 5$  cubes in each group.  $3 \times 5$  can be interpreted as 3 groups with 5 cubes in each groups. How can you see the rectangular prism as being made of 2 groups with (3 groups of 5 cubes in each)? \* Explain how you can see each of these products by looking at the rectangular prism in different ways:

$$2 \times (5 \times 3)$$

$$3 \times (2 \times 5)$$

$$3 \times (5 \times 2)$$

$$5 \times (2 \times 3)$$

$$5 \times (3 \times 2)$$

