

2nd Grade - Lesson 6.2

Atoms can be Rearranged to Make Different Molecules

Teacher Background

Snap Cubes as Models of Atoms

In Lesson 6.2, students use different colored Snap Cubes to model different atoms and molecules. This lesson serves as a continuation and more detailed version of the last part of Lesson 6.1.

Snap cubes can be purchased at:

hand2mind (ETA) <http://www.hand2mind.com/item/snap-cubes-set-of-100/5486>

Amazon <https://www.amazon.com/Learning-Resources-Mathlink-Cubes-Set/dp/B000URL296>

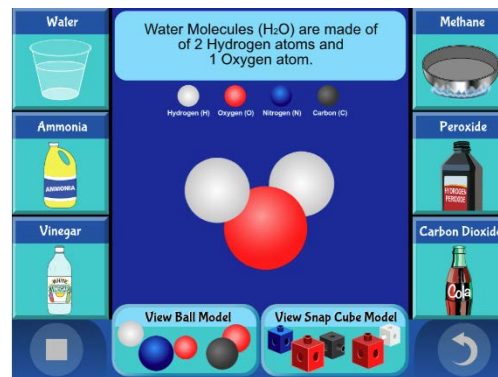
Lakeshore Learning <http://lakeshorelearning.info/seo/p%7CRA529~.jsp>

They also go by the name Pop Cubes, Linking Cubes, and Mathlink Cubes.

Atoms and Molecules for Second Graders

Since students are only in second grade, the lesson is not meant to give them a detailed understanding of atoms and molecules.

The intent is to give students exposure to the terms “atom” and “molecule” and to help them understand that atoms join together to make molecules. It can also lay a foundation for the idea that different substances are made from different atoms and molecules, and that these particles are what give the substances their characteristic properties. These ideas can form the basis for learning more about atoms and molecules in later grades.



The lesson also gives students more opportunities to engage in the practice of modeling. The idea that a white sphere or white Snap Cube represents a particular atom (hydrogen) and that a red sphere or red Snap Cube represents a different atom (oxygen), is a useful thinking process that students will further develop in future science learning.