# Unit 1 Lesson 5: Bases and Heights of Parallelograms

## **1 A Parallelogram and Its Rectangles (Warm up)** Student Task Statement

Elena and Tyler were finding the area of this parallelogram:



Here is how Elena did it:



Here is how Tyler did it:



How are the two strategies for finding the area of a parallelogram the same? How they are different?



#### Activity Synthesis

## 2 The Right Height?

#### **Student Task Statement**

Study the examples and non-examples of **bases** and **heights** of parallelograms.



- 1. Select **all** the statements that are true about bases and heights in a parallelogram.
  - a. Only a horizontal side of a parallelogram can be a base.
  - b. Any side of a parallelogram can be a base.
  - c. A height can be drawn at any angle to the side chosen as the base.
  - d. A base and its corresponding height must be perpendicular to each other.
  - e. A height can only be drawn inside a parallelogram.
  - f. A height can be drawn outside of the parallelogram, as long as it is drawn at a 90-degree angle to the base.

g. A base cannot be extended to meet a height.

2. Five students labeled a base b and a corresponding height h for each of these parallelograms. Are all drawings correctly labeled? Explain how you know.



# 3 Finding the Formula for Area of Parallelograms

### Student Task Statement

For each parallelogram:

- Identify a base and a corresponding height, and record their lengths in the table.
- Find the area of the parallelogram and record it in the last column of the table.



parallelogram	base (units)	height (units)	area (sq units)
А			
В			
С			
D			
any parallelogram	b	h	

In the last row, write an expression for the area of any parallelogram, using b and h.