

Author(s): Annabelle V. Fernandez, Faye Goldman

TITLE: Use of modular origami models to illustrate viral structures.

In their basic form, viruses are made up of protein capsules containing nucleic acid, either RNA or DNA. Among the traditional approaches of teaching structural compositions of viruses employ models illustrated by drawing or electronic interpretations using a computer. Physical models have been created utilizing toys such as Legos® or K'Nex. The use of modular origami models to illustrate various virus structures is an elegant method to teach and demonstrate the beauty of these submicroscopic organisms.