Mathematics, Geometry Unit X: Lesson 3

## Investigation: Napoleon's Triangles



Let ABC be a triangle with no angle greater than 120. Construct equilateral triangles ABN, BCL, and ACM on the side of triangle ABC. Connect the centers of the equilateral triangles ABN, BCL, and ACM to form a triangle. This triangle is known as the outer Napoleon triangle of ABC, named after Napoleon Bonaparte. Then construct equilateral triangle ABX, BCY, and ACZ overlapping in the interior of triangle ABC. Connect the centers of the 3 triangles to form a triangle called the inner Napoleon triangle.

Show that the difference between the areas of the outer and inner Napoleon triangles is equal to the area of the original triangle.

Create a display showing your constructions. Attach a report explaining the relationship between the areas of the two Napoleon triangles and the original one.