Proof. ( $\Longrightarrow$ ) Suppose that  $a^3$  is even and suppose for contradiction that a is not even. Then  $(a^3/a) \in \mathbb{Q} \setminus \mathbb{Z}$ . Then  $a^2 \in \mathbb{Q} \setminus \mathbb{Z}$ . This is a contradiction with  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$  because if  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ , a = 2k for some integer k so  $a^2 = 4k^2 = 2(2k) \in \mathbb{N} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$ . Thus a is even. ( $\Longleftrightarrow$ ) If a is even, then it can be written in the form 2k for some integer k. Then  $a^3 = 2^3k^3 = 8k^3 = 2(4k^3)$ . Thus  $a^3$  is even.