1. Title of the Lesson: Discovering the formula for the volume of a cylinder
2. Brief description of the lesson: Students use tins of beans, rulers, calculators, worksheet, etc to calculate the volume of the tin of beans.
3. Aims of the Lesson:

## Long-range/thematic goals:

- I'd like to foster my students to become independent learners
- I'd like my students to become more creative when devising approaches and methods to solve problems
- I'd like my students to experience meaningful mathematics i.e. that they see a need for what they are studying
- I'd like to build my students' enthusiasm for the subject by engaging them with stimulating activities


## Short-term goals:

## For students to understand :

- The relationship between the base of a shape, its height and its volume
- To be able to use the formula to get the volume of a cylinder


## 4. Learning Outcomes:

As a result of studying this topic students will be able to:

- Develop an understanding of the relationship between the area of the base of a solid, its height and its volume.
- Get the volume of a cylinder.


## 5. Background and Rationale

a. According to the syllabus students are required to calculate the volume of a cylinder and apply to problem solving questions.
b. Students are very competent at substituting into the formula to compute correct volume, however have difficult manipulating the formula to less straight forward questions. A lack of understand of how the formula is derived is at the root of this difficulty.
c. To enable to make a connection between the area of the base of a shape and its volume.

## 6. Research

Texts books. The Maths Development website and JC Maths syllabus. We also considered the key skills of junior cycle i.e that each student can become able to express their own ideas, compare and discuss ideas, establish a form of learning by comparing and taking good ideas from others and experience that maths is fun.
7. About the Unit and the Lesson

Page 24 of Junior Certificate Syllabus:

| Topic | Description of topic Students learn about | Learning outcomes Students should be able to |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |
| 3.4 Applied measure | Measure and time. | - calculate, interpret and apply units of measure and time |
|  | 2D shapes and 3D solids, including nets of solids (two-dimensional representations of three-dimensional objects). | - solve problems that involve calculating average speed, distance and time |
|  | Using nets to analyse figures and to distinguish between surface area and volume. | - investigate the nets of rectangular solids <br> - find the volume of rectangular solids and cylinders |
|  | Problerns involving perimeter, surface area and volume. | - find the surface area of rectangular solids |
|  | Modelling real-world situations and solve a variety of problems (including multi-step problems) involving | - identify the necessary information to solve a problem |
|  | surface areas, and volumes of cylinders and prisms. The circle and develop an understanding of the | - select and use suitable strategies to find length of the perimeter and the |
|  | relationship between its circumference, diameter and $\pi$. | area of the following plane figures: disc, triangle, rectangle, square, and figures made from combinations of these |
|  |  | - draw and interpret scaled diagrams |
|  |  | - investigate nets of prisms (polygonal bases) cylinders and cones |
|  |  | - solve problems involving surface area of triangular base prisms (right angle, isosceles, equilateral), cylinders and cones |
|  |  | - solve problems involving curved surface area of cylinders, cones and spheres |
|  |  | - perform calculations to solve problems involving the volume |
|  |  | of rectangular solids, cylinders, cones, triangular base prisms |
|  |  | (right angle, isosceles, equilateral), spheres and combinations of these |

## 8. Topic Description of topic Students learn about Learning outcomes

9. 

| Lesson |  | \# of lesson periods |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | - Review of perimeter and area of squares, rectang 1 es and triangles. | $1 \times 40 \mathrm{~min}$. |
| 2 | - Area of a parallelogram | $1 \times 40 \mathrm{~min}$. |
| 3 | - Area and Circumference of a circle. | $3 \times 40 \mathrm{~min}$. |
| 4 | - Surface area of a rectangular solid. | 1 x 40 min . |
| 5 | - Volume of a rectangular solid | $2 \times 40 \mathrm{~min}$. |


| 6 | $\bullet$ Discovering formula for volume of a cylinder | $\mathbf{1} 40 \mathrm{~min}($ research <br> lesson) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 7 | $\bullet$ Volume of a cylinder | $\mathbf{1 \times 4 0} \mathbf{~ m i n s}$ |
| 8 | $\bullet$ Volume of a prism | $\mathbf{1 x 4 0} \mathbf{~ m i n s}$ |

## 10. Flow of the Lesson

| Teaching Activity | Points of Consideration |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\begin{array}{l}\text { 1. Introduction (2-3mins) } \\ \text { Review of area of a circle and review of volume of a } \\ \text { rectangular solid. }\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{l}\text { Can anyone remember how we get the area of a circle? } \\ \text { Units? } \\ \text { What does 'r' stand for? What is } \pi \text { ? } \\ \text { (Both the number and that it is circumference divided by } \\ \text { diameter) } \\ \text { How do you get the volume of this solid? (Rectangular) } \\ \text { Units? }\end{array}$ |
| $\begin{array}{l}\text { 2. Posing the Task (10 mins) } \\ \text { Question: You have applied for a job at a baked bean } \\ \text { factory ,as part of the application you must find the } \\ \text { volume of this tin of beans. }\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{l}\text { They start working on the task, discussing possible ways of } \\ \text { doing it. Ask students if they are clear about what they } \\ \text { need to do and if they have any questions. Teacher to } \\ \text { explain to students that they will have 10 minutes to solve } \\ \text { the problem and that it is important that they understand } \\ \text { the task as the teacher won't be answering any questions } \\ \text { during that time. At the end of the } 10 \text { minutes, students } \\ \text { will be called up to the board to explain their methods. } \\ \text { Everybody must write down their own work. }\end{array}$ |
| Students will have worksheet, tin of beans, ruler, |  |
| calculator. |  |\(\left.\quad \begin{array}{l}Students who finish early will be encouraged to check their <br>

solution by using a different method.\end{array}\right\}\)

Teacher moves from words to $V=\pi r 2 h$ and shows students where to locate it in the Maths tables.
Teacher gives homework from textbook - finding the volume of various cylinders.

## 11. Evaluation

We divided ourselves so each teacher observed 3-5 students each. We used the student record observation sheet. We met after the lesson and compared observations. We divided student work into three different categories-poor-good- very good.

## 12. Board Plan




## 13. Post-lesson reflection

- What are the major patterns and tendencies in the evidence ?

A lot of students got the area of the circle but some struggled after that. Other students used $\mathrm{Lx} \mathrm{W} \times \mathrm{H}$. Very few of the students used the 1 cm square grid provided. Other students got the formula from the maths tables provided. Some students misunderstood the perimeter of circle as length.

- What are the key observations or representative examples of student learning and thinking ?

We felt that the students were very enthusiastic and had a very positive relationship with the teacher. We divided student work into three groups. The first group struggled to make progress with little or no attempt. The second group managed to get the area of a circle but failed to progress subsequently. The final group produced work of a high standard and arrived at the volume through various methods.

- What does the evidence suggest about student thinking such as their misconceptions, difficulties, confusion, insights, surprising ideas, etc ?
The main difficulty which we hadn't anticipated was some students misunderstood the perimeter of circle as length. On a positive note we were both surprised and pleased with the students' willingness to stick to their task and offer each other help.
- In what ways did students achieve or not achieve the learning goals ?

Many students used their prior knowledge to come up with the formula for the volume of a cylinder and see the connection between area and volume. Those who struggled to see the connection were guided to this conclusion through the teacher's final summation of students' work from board.

- Based on your analysis, how would you change or revise the lesson?

Timing wise we felt the lesson went very well. We also felt students were very engaged with the problem. In terms of change, we discussed placing the cylinder in a cuboid. However we felt it would be difficult to find an everyday household object that the tin of beans would fit into. We concluded we would change very little about the lesson.

What are the implications for teaching in your fieldWe felt the student enthusiasm reinforced the positives of discovery based learning. We feel that this will really help them with problem solving skills for the junior cert. While this type of teaching requires additional preparation we feel the rewards justify the extra effort. As teachers we felt it was good to step back and let the students discover their own solutions. The students were very attentive to other students' work and this allowed the teacher to extract the merit in all efforts.


Appendix 3





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Appendix 3: Student Observation Record
5. Beginning of Lesson:

Observe understanding of prior knowledge and of the task

|  | Student 1 | Student 2 | Student 3 | Student 4 | Student 5 | Student 6 | Student 7 | Student 8 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| (i) Questions on the <br> formula |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (ii) Misconceptions |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (iii) Wording of the <br> task, e.g. "Width" |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (iv) Do students ask |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| for measurements? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |$\quad$|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |



|  | Student 1 | Student 2 | Student 3 | Student 4 | Student 5 | Student 6 | Student 7 | Student 8 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (i) Questions asked to teacher |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (ii) Questions asked to other group members |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (iii) Identify if and when a student used a practical approach How long did they spend? Did they go back? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (iv) Identify if and when a student used a written approach How long did they spend? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (v) Did students persist with the task? <br> Or give up? <br> Were prompts required? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (vi) Rate student understanding of the practical element of the task. <br> 1 = poor <br> 2 = some understanding <br> 3 = competent |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (vii) Rate student understanding of the written element of the task. <br> 1 = poor <br> 2 = some understanding <br> 3 = competent |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other observations |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

7. During Discussion:

| Observe student engagement. | Student 1 | Student 2 | Student 3 | Student 4 | Student 5 | Student 6 | Student 7 | Student 8 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| (i) Are the students attentive to <br> what's happening on the board? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (ii) Presenters: are clarifications or <br> prompts needed to their board <br> work? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (iii) Did the presenting students' <br> presentation and discussion <br> promote their teaching and <br> learning? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (iv) During oral questioning at the <br> end of the lesson, was there <br> evidence of understanding and <br> learning? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other observations |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

