Lesson Research Proposal for 2nd Year - Volume

For the lesson **Friday 26th January 2018** At **Old Bawn CS,** 2nd year **Teacher:** Méabh Murray **Lesson plan developed by:** Yvonne Marley, Méabh Murray, Cailín Foy, Luiza Stoicescu, Irene Stone

1. Title of the Lesson: "The Formula Speaks Volumes"

2. Brief description of the lesson

During this lesson, the students will explore the volume formula for cuboids. They will then develop a formula for volume of all prisms leading to the discovery of the formula for the volume of a cylinder.

3. Research Theme

At Old Bawn Community School we want students to:

- enjoy their learning, be motivated to learn and expect to achieve as learners.
- engage purposefully in meaningful learning activities.

As teachers of mathematics, we will actively support the achievement of these goals by:

- developing lessons that are engaging and allow students to achieve success by ensuring the problems chosen can be solved in a wide variety of methods.
- providing students with an opportunity to explain their reasoning clearly and accurately.

4. Background & Rationale

This lesson is aimed at second-year students. The teaching of area and volume is important subject material as it is related to everyday life and is a basic numerical skill that students will need over their lifetime. We have observed that students find the topic of volume difficult to grasp and are often making mistakes when differentiating between area and volume. The science department have observed a confusion amongst students on the topic of volume versus mass. There is also an issue with students understanding of the units to use (i.e. where they come from) as opposed to memorising which units to use.

We normally teach the volume of cylinders immediately after the volume of a cuboid. Traditionally, the formula is explained as $V = \pi r^2 \times h$, leading to drill exercises on finding the volume of a cylinder. The focus has been on using the formula to solve problems without much time spent on discovering where the formula comes from.

The chief examiners report, 2015¹, highlighted that students frequently chose the incorrect formula when attempting to find the volume of a cylinder, e.g. using the formula for a cuboid instead of a cylinder. This suggests that understanding in some cases is limited to filling in a formula, but a disconnect occurs between the formula and the shape which becomes evident when students are required to identify which formula to use themselves. We hope our lesson will address this disconnect.

¹ Chief Examiner's Report JC Maths 2015: <u>https://www.examinations.ie/misc-doc/EN-EN-25073660.pdf</u>

Related prior learning Outcomes	Learning outcomes for this unit	Related later learning outcomes
In primary school, students have:	In second year , students are expected to learn how	In 3rd year , the students will:
Discovered that the area of a rectangle is length by breadth Used cm^2 as units for area. Calculated area using cm^2 and m^2 .	to: Find the volume of rectangular solids and cylinders.	Investigate nets of other prisms (e.g. triangle based prisms), nets of cylinders & cones.
Calculated the area of regular and irregular 2D shapes.	Solve problems involving volume of cylinders. Solve problems involving	the surface area of a cylinder.
Compared visually cm^2 and m^2 . Met capacity and rename measures	volume of cuboids and cylinders.	Solve problems involving the curved surface area of cylinders.
of capacity. They should be able to		Solve problems involving the surface area of triangular base prisms and
select and use appropriate instruments of measurement.		cones. Solve problems involving cones and spheres.
experimentally. In second level (i.e. in 1st year)		Perform calculations to solve problems involving
students have learned how to: Find the length of the perimeter and the area of the following: disc, triangle, rectangle, square and any		the volume of cones, triangular base prisms, spheres and any combination of these.
combinations of these Draw and interpret scaled diagrams.		
Investigate nets of rectangular solids		
Find surface area of rectangular solids		
Solve problems involving the surface area of a cuboid.		

5. Relationship of the Unit to the Syllabus

6. Goals of the Unit

- To help students discover that area relates to 2D shapes and volume relates to 3D shapes.
- To help students develop problem-solving skills through examining a variety of 3D shapes.
- To help students understand that the units used for 2D and 3D shapes stem from the number of variables used to calculate area and volume.
- To allow students to transfer their knowledge of volume from the context of a cuboid to the context of all prisms.
- To help students discover the formula to calculate the volume of a cylinder.
- To help students to discover the formula to find the volume of all prisms.

7. Unit Plan

Lesson	Learning goal(s) and tasks		
1	Students should know the difference between a 2D and 3D shape. This will		
	consist of examples of each and the real-life contexts when each is used.		
	Introduce the idea of prisms. Identify the face/base of a prism.		
	Know that a prism has a uniform cross-sectional area.		
	Identify a cuboid as a rectangular based prism.		
	Recall the area of a rectangle.		
2	Recall how to find the volume of a cuboid. Practice finding the volume of simple		
	cuboids.		
3	Discover how to calculate the volume of a rectangular solid using		
Research Lesson <i>area of face x height.</i>			
	Establish the formula for the volume of a cylinder.		
4	Students convince themselves that this process can be applied to all prisms to		
	find the volume through investigation.		
5	Solve problems involving the volume of a cuboid/other prisms		
6	Solve problems involving the volume of a cylinder		

8. Goals of the Research Lesson:

Mathematical Goals

- Students will:
- a) Understand how to calculate the volume of a cuboid using *face area x height*
- **b**) Understand how to calculate the volume of a cylinder

Key Skills & Statements of Learning

- a) Being Numerate: By engaging in suitable tasks, students will develop a positive attitude towards investigating, reasoning and problem solving.
- **b**) Working with Others: Students will learn with and from each other by discussing different approaches to problem solving.
- c) Communicating: During Ceardaíocht, students will present and discuss their mathematical thinking.
- **d**) Managing myself: Students will have the opportunity to reflect on their own learning when the teacher asks them to write a reflection at the end of the lesson.
- e) Managing information and Thinking: Students will be encouraged to think creatively and critically.
- **f**) Being Creative: Students will explore options as they actively participate in the construction of knowledge.
- **g**) Staying Well: By engaging in tasks that are appropriate to their abilities, students' confidence and positive disposition will be promoted.
- **h**) Being literate: Through Ceardaíocht, students will have the opportunity to express their ideas accurately and clearly.

This lesson is also designed to meet the following JC Statements of Learning in particular:

- 1. The student communicates effectively using a variety of means in a range of contexts.
- 15. The student recognises the potential uses of mathematical knowledge, skills and understanding in all areas of learning.
- 16. The students describes, illustrates, interprets, predicts and explains patterns and relationships.
- 17. The students devises and evaluates strategies for investigating and solving problems using mathematical knowledge, reasoning and skills.

9. Flow of the Research Lesson:

Steps, Learning Activities Teacher's Questions and Expected Student Reactions	Teacher Support	Assessment
Introduction		
Before we start today's problem, I want to quickly review some maths we learned over the last two weeks.	Put up a picture of a rectangle. Label length and width.	This is to ensure all students can correctly label the face of a cuboid, and correctly
- Place a cuboid on each desk. The cuboid will have the dimensions written on the face and the depth will have already been split	Remind students what a prism is.	find the area.
into 10 1cm blocks using a permanent pen.	Explain why height and depth mean the same thing.	It is important that all students clearly understand the
	Ensure each child correctly identifies the label on each dimension.	language used.
	Put up card on board that describes Area = length x width	
 → denotes student responses Q. How is a cuboid a prism? Matching faces All faces are flat Four parallel lines joining the faces Q. What can we measure on a prism? Area of a face Total Surface area Length Width Depth/Height Q. What is each dimension called? Length Width Height Q. Can anyone remember how to find the area of a rectangle? Area rectangle = Length x width 	Avea of a Redanse = Length x Width	

Desing the Tesk 1	Students will be given the suboid	
Posing the Task 1 Presenting a cuboid. The cuboid will have some dimensions written on it L = 4cm W= 3cm H = 10cm (graded into one cm widths) Task 1 Can you come up with at least three ways to calculate the volume of the cuboid on your desk? Give students five minutes silent thinking time to come up with as many ways as possible to calculate the volume of a cuboid.	Students will be given the cuboid. Each student will be given a sheet with empty boxes to place suggestions in. See Appendix A.Encourage students to write down the formula they are using every time. These worksheets will be put up on the board during Ceardaíocht. This worksheet will be glued into the students' copy at the end of the lesson. $\boxed{Task 1}_{fin}$	
	Height	
Student Individual Work		
Response 1: Treat the block as one unit LXWXH 4cmx3cmx10cm =120 <i>cm</i> ³	As the teacher circulates the room, she looks for good examples of the various methods- Finding volume treating the cuboid as one block, two blocks, three blocks.	Can students recognise the length, width and height of the shape.
$V = L \times W \times H$ = $4 \times 3 \times 10$ = $1 \ge 0 \text{ cm}^3$	The order will be noted of the ways the solutions will be displayed on the board. Students names will be noted e.g. who to ask questions etc during Ceardaíocht. For students who find the volume using 4cm x3cm x10cm they could be asked: Could you try and find the volume a different way? The teacher can prompt by saying "keep the length and width fixed"	Can they substitute correctly into the formula, the length, the width and the height? Can they work out the volume in different ways but keeping the length and width the same.
et the second seco		Are they using units correctly?



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Ceardaíocht /Comparing and Discussing

The solutions will be presented in the order outlined above. A discussion will take place around units. A student who chose the incorrect units or omitted the units for method one will be first called to the board, followed by a student who did the correct units.

- Do you understand?
- Can you explain it back to me?
- Did anyone else calculate the volume of the block in one go?
- Can you explain it back to me?

When the block was broken into two pieces what dimensions always remained the same?

What are we calculating when we multiply length x width?

→ Area

What is a prism?

→ Matching faces, joined by parallel lines; should be on the board

When the block is in three parts what dimensions remained the same?

 \rightarrow Area of the face

Conclusion:

Volume = Area of face x height

For each response/ solution presented on the board:

Another student who didn't use the method (as noted when walking around) will be asked to explain the solution.

How can I **calculate** the units for volume?



For each student solution on board; the teacher will circle the product (i.e. 3×4) that gives area in all the calculations on the board with a red marker.



Teacher can ask: Why does this product keep showing up in all calculations? *How does this product relate back to* the shape we're looking at? What's staying the same? What's different? Prompt the students that the area that is never changes in a prism is the face. Will this method work for all shapes? Can you think of an example of a *different shape it will work for?* Why will it work on this shape? Can you think of an example it won't work for? Why won't it work for that shape?

Do you think these units are correct?

Why/Why not? Why are these units correct.

Can students see that the length and width of the shape don't change?

Can they see that the area doesn't change?

Can they see that the only dimension that changes is the height?

Will they recognise that the volume of the prism is the Area x Height.

Will this lead them to discover the volume for other prisms?

Will they be able to come up with formula for the volume of a cylinder?

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Posing Task 2:		
Students will be given a worksheet (see Appendix B) with various shapes (2 cuboids, 2 triangular prisms, and 1 cylinder). On each of these shapes the area of the face will be given and the height will be given. Students will be asked to find the volume of each shape. The last question on the worksheet will be "can you come up with how to calculate the volume of a cylinder in words? Now can you create a formula using letters to find the volume of a cylinder? Make sure you list what every variable you use stands for"	Prompt: Remind students about the formula they have discovered: Volume = Area of face x Height Volume = Area of face x height Task 2 Complete the worksheet Are all of the shapes prisms? Which one is not a prism?	Do students know how to find the volume of a cylinder using <i>Face</i> <i>Area x Height</i> Will students recognise that a cylinder is not a "prism" although it can be treated like a prism.
Students will have 15 minutes to complete this task.	Why is it not a prism?	
	Can we transfer knowledge on finding the volume of a prism to this shape to find its volume?	
Ceardaíocht /Comparing and Discussing	Tooshor rominds by osking	Can students find the
the board.	- What never changes?	area of these shapes?
A blown up copy of each shape will be prepared.	On board place the formula	Can they all see it's area of face x height?
$\rightarrow 3 cm^2 x 6 cm$	Triangular Prism =	
\rightarrow 18 cm ³	Area of face x depth (Base x Perpendicular Height x depth)	
 Did anyone else get this answer? Do you understand? 2. Cuboid: (Area of face) x height → 5cm² x 3cm → 15cm³ 	Area = San Hugan San IScm ³ x 3cn IScm ³ IScm ³ IScm ³ Vol = Area x Height	Will they remember the area of a circle? Will they come up formula themselves for the volume of a
 3. Triangular prism: Area of face x height → 3cm²x 8cm → 24cm³ 	H=8cm 24cm ³	cylinder?
Did anyone else get this answer?Do you understand?	hender Azen Vol= Area xHeight Aunge = 26 x Jh = ±(z) x (z)	
4. Triangular prism: $\frac{1}{2}$ (Base x Perpendicular height)	- Zem	
x height	Students may need to be prompted "can	
$\rightarrow \frac{1}{2}(2cm)(2cm) \times 10$	you remember how to find the area of a circle?"	
$\rightarrow 20cm^3$	But the area of the circle on the hoard	
Did anyone else get this answer?Do you understand?	Area of circle = πr^2	

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			-
5. Cylinder: given	only the radius and the	Cylinder	
height (in terms of π)			
→ ⁽			
		We can write down the volume of a	
- Did anyone else g	et this answer?	cylinder as	
- Do you understan	d?		
- y		Volume of a cylinder = Area of the face	
		x height	
Expected Student Response	es:		
1 1		Can anyone come up with another	
Cylinder		formula for finding the volume of a	
Radius = 5cm	When calculating the volume of the cylinder leave your answer in terms	cylinder?	
	of π .		
		Write your formula on your whiteboard	
	Firea of Face X Height	and turn your board when you are	
	Kan of usedal & hair ant	ready.	
H = 8cm	fread (and) & + 10 gain		
	TITEVE	Well done! The volume of a cylinder	
	- 2	can be found using the formula	
	11×5 > 0		
	25TT × 8	$V = \pi r^2 x h$	
		We have discovered a way of finding	
		the volume of a cylinder. The title of	
		today's lesson is :	
		How to find the volume of a cylinder.	
Write down a formula for the volume o	f the cylinder. Clearly state what each		
variable you use stands for:	, ,	Teacher to pin the title to beginning of	
Area of Foce	X Height	lesson.	
	H		
Summing up & Reflection	n		
We were reminded that the	volume of a cuboid is	The teacher will use the layout of the	
LxWxH		board to remind students of what they	
We discovered that the vol	ume of the cuboid could	have learned in class. Students will be	
be found by breaking up th	e height and finding	encouraged to reflect on the lesson.	
volume of other cuboids th	at could be added		
together.		Reflection	
We noticed that the length	and width didn't change	Students are asked to write three	
(i.e. the area) and only the	height.	sentences on what they learned during	
We concluded that the volu	me of the cuboid could be	the lesson.	
found by Area x Height			
We discovered that the vol	ume of a cylinder could be		
found by Area x Height, he	ence the volume of a		
cylinder is $V = \pi r^2 \times h$	ı		
Homework:			
Five exercises on finding the	he volume of a cvlinder		
from the book with all ans	wers in term of π		
une coon, mun un uno			1

10. Proposed Board Plan





11. Evaluation

The classroom will be divided up in 3 sections, approximately 9 students per observer, see Appendix C. The 4th observer will use the LessonNote² app to observe the whole lesson. Observers will take note of student interactions, engagement etc. keeping in mind the goals of the lesson. Student worksheets will be collected and photographed to be reflected on later. The completed board will be photographed to be reflected on later. A post-lesson meeting will take place immediately after the lesson for reflection to take place. When observing the lesson, the following questions will be kept in mind:

- Were students motivated during the lesson?
- Were they engaged at all times?
- Did students enjoy the lesson?
- Could students solve the problems in a variety of methods?
- Were students given an opportunity to explain their reasoning clearly and accurately?
- Do students understand that the volume of a cuboid is the *face area x height*?
- Do students understand that this formula can be used for other prisms?
- Did students understand that this formula cannot be used for all shapes?
- Were students able to discover the formula for the volume of a cylinder?
- Did students have sufficient reflection time?

² Designed for the collaborative improvement for teaching and learning <u>http://lessonnote.com/</u>

12. Reflection

What had we hoped before the lesson:

We had hoped ...

- to create a lesson that would engage students and motivate them to learn.
- to see evidence of key skills embedded in the lesson.
- to see if students could transfer knowledge from one lesson into the next and build on this prior knowledge.
- that students would understand the origins of the formula for the volume of a cylinder.
- that the experience of lesson study would help inform our teaching and help us recognise the value of collaboration and reflection.

What was actually observed during the lesson:

During the lesson, students were fully engaged and were on task at all times. Giving students the opportunity to present at the board was powerful as other students were very engaged when this was happening. They were actively taking down their peers' board work without prompting from the teacher.





When the teacher was walking around, she did not spend too much time with one student. The teacher got to go around to everyone and was discussing higher order content with some students. We felt the structured format of the lesson allowed for this to happen and doesn't allow the focus of the lesson to become about what students do *not* know. The teacher was checking for what the students had discovered as opposed to what they had not understood. As a result, more able students had the time to explore higher order questions with the teacher because the teachers' time was not absorbed by one or two students who were struggling. For example, one student wanted to discuss whether the formula "Area of **any** face x height" would work for any prism, or only certain ones. Such a discussion may not have occurred in a class where the teacher spent her time helping students fill in the LxWxH formula.

Moreover, we did not feel the learning of the students who struggled was compromised. Students who had problems during task time were noticed actively engaging while their peers wrote a correct solution on the board. It was felt there was also a value in struggling at times.

Students really enjoyed having the physical object in front of them. It was noted how much they were turning it around. One student noted in the reflection section of her workbook that the task was much easier to understand because she had the block in front of her and could examine it carefully.

The lesson started at a slow pace and then moved quicker at the end. Yet we don't feel the learning was compromised in any way.

The deputy principal attended the lesson and noted "A lot of learning in one hour, how they got from something so simple that stepped up to the next level".



It helped having the physical object



"A lot of learning in one hour, how they got from something so simple that stepped up to the next level".

Major points raised during the post-lesson discussion, and the team's own opinions:

It helped having the physical blocks for each student. Many thanks to the co-operative woodwork department for making these for us!

Differentiated learning was taking place. The well able students still carried on with the tasks as they tried to find other ways to solve the problems. The weaker students learned from when their peers were at the board. The teacher could reinforce learning through asking students to repeat back what others had presented.

When we observed the students' worksheets after the lesson, we came across two students who used an interesting way to work out volume of a triangular prism. They attempted to turn the triangular prism into a cuboid (by adding to the diagram, see photo below), and then trying to find the volume of the prism. While, in theory, this method is correct, the student used the wrong length and width for the cuboid. It was thought the origins of such a strategy lay in the fact that students had previously discovered the area of a triangle by halving the area of a parallelogram. This would definitely be worth exploring in another lesson.



Finding volume of cuboid and halving to find volume of triangular prism. An example of where the method was correct however the wrong dimensions used.

One student only got a third of the way through the worksheet yet was able to achieve success. She correctly answered two parts. Despite this, she was clearly engaged in all the work her peers were doing on the board as she still achieved the aim of the lesson and correctly discovered the volume of the cylinder formula. We agreed that such differentiated learning and the opportunity for all students to achieve success during the lesson was a successful outcome.

The teacher brought the students from their comfort zone at the start of the lesson (going over prior knowledge) to a point where they discovered something new. The lesson flowed smoothly. Students were taking ownership of their learning as they presented their solutions at the board. At the end of the lesson it was clear that the mathematical goals of the lesson had been met. This was evident when students were asked to write down on their whiteboards what they thought would be a "general" formula for working out the volume of a cylinder. Using the whiteboards in this way was a very effective way of assessing the "new" learning of the lesson.



Students displaying their whiteboards at end of lesson.



Evidence that goal of lesson was met: Students understood how to find the volume of a prism using (Area * Height) and apply this to a cylinder.

Ideas for future study

It would be worth exploring the following in a future or follow-on lesson:

- Exploring the alternative way to find the volume of a triangular prism through halving the volume of a cuboid (as a student described above).
- Exploring to see if students could discover the volume of a cone through building on what they've learned about the volume of a cylinder.

We see the value in having quiet time for students, e.g. giving students the time to do individual work. We are all used to having our students working with each other on solving problems and hearing discussion in our classes. While we still value this, we see that there is added benefits in having quiet time.

1.	- learned	how to	find	me	volume	of c
2.	Foding mawers	d helped	nun	feel	a lor	Cealing
3.	The lesso	was diffe	cot	0000	totroret	100

"Finding answers on my own was a lot more rewarding and helped me feel more confident"

An idea for future lessons would be to mix between group and individual work. Task 1 could have been done as a paired exercise and maybe students would have come up with more of the "expected responses" through discussion.

We also see the value in having one-hour lessons. We feel that this lesson could not have been done in the usual 40-minute period.

What did we as teachers learn from process?

Students really enjoy coming up to the board. We will aim to adopt this practice more in our classes. We will have periods of quiet time in our classes where students can work individually and use this time to look for "correct" solutions that can be presented at the board to class. We will ask students who we think are struggling to reinforce or repeat the message that's been presented at the board. We will try in the future to find a balance between students working quietly individually and working with others.

The most valuable feedback of the lesson resulted from the conversations that we had as a group <u>after</u> the lesson. We will aim, as teachers, to bring this powerful message back to our schools. We can see the benefits of collaborating together on designing a lesson and how the in-depth and deep discussion after the lesson informed us.

Summary

There were two mathematical goals of the lesson. We felt that both goals were achieved. Students clearly understood how to calculate the volume of a cuboid using *face area x height*. They also discovered the formula for calculating the volume of a cylinder. This was evident through the work they completed on the worksheets and the mini-whiteboards.

Students enjoyed the lesson and were motivated to learn. This was evident from the reflections and from the conversations we could hear them having among themselves after the lesson. Key skills of numeracy, managing information and thinking, communicating and working with others were evident in the lesson.

Finally, as a group, we felt the process was very worthwhile. The structured methodology, from researching prior knowledge (back to 4th class in primary) to having the board-work pre-planned provided a unique opportunity for us to reflect on what students know, what we want them to know and the value in planning a precise route to allow them to discover the learning intention themselves.

The process of collaborating with our colleagues both within the school and teachers from other schools provided insight into what goes on in other classrooms. This was very valuable and has provided the basis for future collaboration for similar lessons. We will aim to adopt "Lesson Study" approaches and methodologies in our lessons.



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Appendix A: Task 1

Find the volume of the cuboid on your desk. The cuboid as dimensions as follows: Width (w) = 3cm Length (l) = 4cm Height (h) = 10cm Come up with as many ways as you can (at least 3) of finding the volume of the cuboid.
Method 1:
Method 2:

Method 3:
Method 4:
Method 5





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Write down a formula for the volume of the cylinder. Clearly state what each variable you use stands for:

Reflection:

Write 3 sentences about what you learned today.

1. _____ _____ 2. _____ 3. _____







Appendix D: Sample of notes taken on Lesson Note during observation

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