Lesson 24: The Volume of a Right Prism

Classwork

Exploratory Challenge: Measuring a Container’s Capacity

A box in the shape of a right rectangular prism has a length of 12 in, a width of 6 in, and a height of 8 in. The base and the walls of the container are \( \frac{1}{4} \) in. thick, and its top is open. What is the capacity of the right rectangular prism? (Hint: The capacity is equal to the volume of water needed to fill the prism to the top.)

Example 1: Measuring Liquid in a Container in Three Dimensions

A glass container is in the form of a right rectangular prism. The container is 10 cm long, 8 cm wide, and 30 cm high. The top of the container is open, and the base and walls of the container are 3 mm (or 0.3 cm) thick. The water in the container is 6 cm from the top of the container. What is the volume of the water in the container?
Example 2

7.2 L of water are poured into a container in the shape of a right rectangular prism. The inside of the container is 50 cm long, 20 cm wide, and 25 cm tall. How far from the top of the container is the surface of the water? (1 L = 1000 cm³)

Example 3

A fuel tank is the shape of a right rectangular prism and has 27 L of fuel in it. It is determined that the tank is \( \frac{3}{4} \) full. The inside dimensions of the base of the tank are 90 cm by 50 cm. What is the height of the fuel in the tank? How deep is the tank? (1 L = 1,000 cm³)
Problem Set

1. Mark wants to put some fish and decorative rocks in his new glass fish tank. He measured the outside dimensions of the right rectangular prism and recorded a length of 55 cm, width of 42 cm, and height of 38 cm. He calculates that the tank will hold 87.78 L of water. Why is Mark’s calculation of volume incorrect? What is the correct volume? Mark also failed to take into account the fish and decorative rocks he plans to add. How will this affect the volume of water in the tank? Explain.

2. Leondra bought an aquarium that is a right rectangular prism. The inside dimensions of the aquarium are 90 cm long, by 48 cm wide, by 60 cm deep. She plans to put water in the aquarium before purchasing any pet fish. How many liters of water does she need to put in the aquarium so that the water level is 5 cm below the top?

3. The inside space of two different water tanks are shown below. Which tank has a greater capacity? Justify your answer.

4. The inside of a tank is in the shape of a right rectangular prism. The base of that prism is 85 cm by 64 cm. What is the minimum height inside the tank if the volume of the liquid in the tank is 92 L?

5. An oil tank is the shape of a right rectangular prism. The inside of the tank is 36.5 cm long, 52 cm wide, and 29 cm high. If 45 liters of oil have been removed from the tank since it was full, what is the current depth of oil left in the tank?

6. The inside of a right rectangular prism-shaped tank has a base that is 14 cm by 24 cm and a height of 60 cm. The tank is filled to its capacity with water, and then 10.92 L of water is removed. How far did the water level drop?

7. A right rectangular prism-shaped container has inside dimensions of $7\frac{1}{2}$ cm long and $4\frac{3}{5}$ cm wide. The tank is $\frac{3}{5}$ full of vegetable oil. It contains 0.414 L of oil. Find the height of the container.

8. A right rectangular prism with length of 10 in, width of 16 in, and height of 12 in is $\frac{2}{3}$ filled with water. If the water is emptied into another right rectangular prism with a length of 12 in, a width of 12 in, and height of 9 in, will the second container hold all of the water? Explain why or why not. Determine how far (above or below) the water level would be from the top of the container.