



ACTIVITY 6

Pop It, Now Stop It!

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills: 4.8C; 5.6A

Objective: Students will practice estimating volume in cubic units.

Number of students: Students can work in groups of four.

Materials:

- 75 linking centimeter cubes per group (Number can vary.)
- Pencil/paper
- 1 file folder per group
- Chart paper (optional)

Steps:

Step 1: The teacher should divide the students into groups, and assign each group a name.

Step 2: Each group gets 75 centimeter cubes in a container.

Step 3: When the teacher says, “Pop it!” the groups will have 5 minutes to use the cubes they have to create a geometric solid figure using as many of the 75 cubes as they would like.

Step 4: When time is up, the teacher says, “Pop it, now stop it!” The groups must then quietly put any leftover cubes out of view behind the erected file folder.

Step 5: Each group then chooses a “Host” to walk around and display its figure, so that all of the groups can see it clearly. The role of “Host” should rotate throughout the groups.

Step 6: As a team’s “Host” walks around, the other teams should work together to try to estimate the volume of the figure to the nearest cubic centimeter.

Step 7: The team that comes the closest wins a point. The score should be tracked on the board or on chart paper.

Step 8: Then, the next team sends its “Host” around with its figure. The other teams make an estimate and the team that gets closest wins a point.

Step 9: Repeat the process any number of times. The team with the most points wins.