

Turning Up the Volume

"Now, class, don't lose your marbles over this assignment," Mr. Vaughan said, laughing as he handed each of them a bag of marbles.

"Your task over the weekend is to find the volume of one of these marbles in cubic centimeters," he continued. "I understand that there might be slight differences in size among them. What I'm looking for is that you understand the concept of the volume of a . . . what shape is a marble?" he asked, to see if the students were listening.

"A sphere," they answered.

"And by the way, I need those marbles back Monday morning when you turn in your answers," he said. "I don't want to see any marbles tournaments going on around here."

Aaron, Travis, and Katelyn turned in their papers on Monday and got them back the next day. They all had gotten a check mark indicating that their answer was acceptable.

"That was tough, measuring those little marbles with a tape measure," Katelyn said as they walked out of class.

Aaron agreed. "I'm glad he said that he was more interested in showing we knew how to do the calculation than in getting an exact measurement," he said.

"I didn't even use a tape measure, and he wrote on my paper that I was the most accurate of everyone," Travis said.

"How could that be?" Katelyn said.

