

# Finding the surface area of a three dimensional object

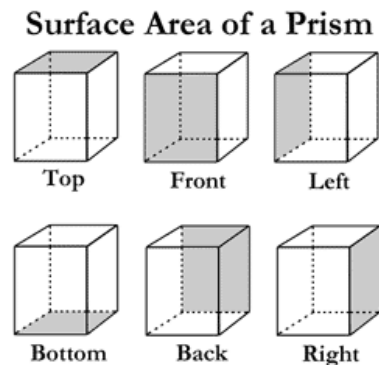


National Center and State Collaborative

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# What is surface area?

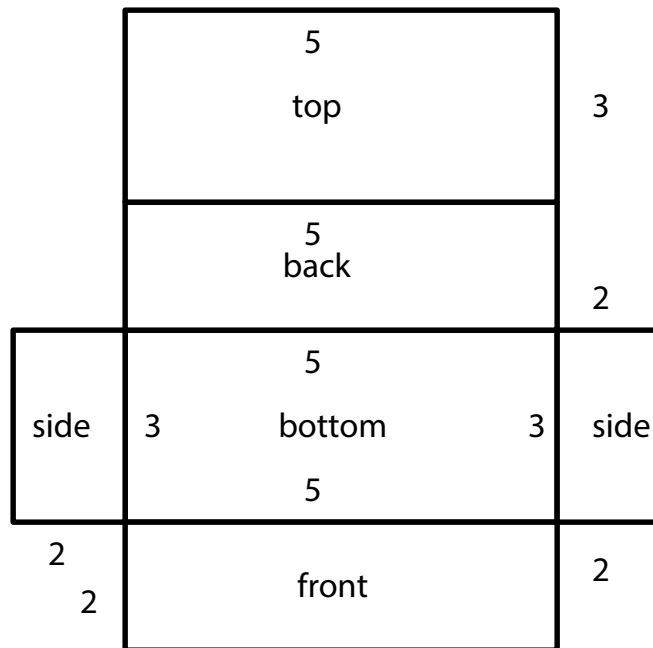
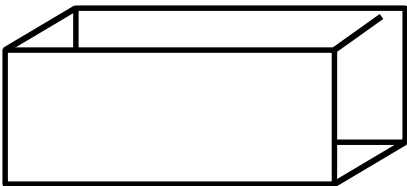
- Surface area is the total area of all the surfaces of a three dimensional object
- Surface area can be found by using a net of the object which shows all the surfaces of an object and adding them together **OR** by applying the formula for that specific shape



# Surface area of rectangular prisms: An example

- In a rectangular prism, it is helpful to decompose (unfold) the object so students can see all the different faces

- For example,



This is called a net. A net is a two dimensional representation of all the faces

# Surface area of rectangular prisms: An example cont.

- Based on the net, you can see that the rectangular prism is made up of 2 sets of 3 different rectangles
  - Front and back- 2 by 5
  - Top and bottom- 3 by 5
  - 2 sides-2 by 3

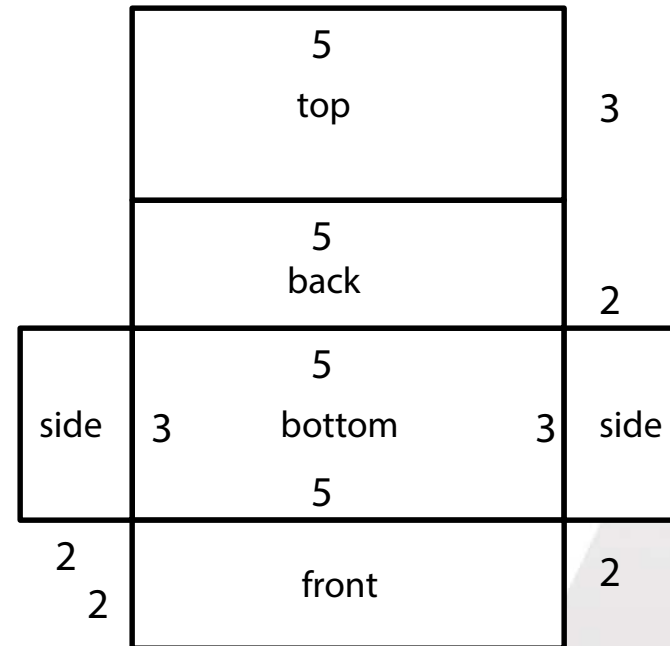
2 of each

$$SA = 2(2 \times 5 + 3 \times 5 + 2 \times 3)$$

Front and back

Top and bottom

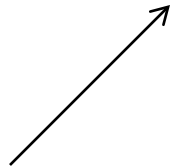
2 sides



# Surface area of rectangular prisms: An example cont.

- Step 1:  $SA = 2(2 \times 5 + 3 \times 5 + 2 \times 3)$
- Step 2:  $SA = 2(10 + 15 + 6)$
- Step 3:  $SA = 62 \text{ cm}^2$

Don't forget the  
units



## Helpful Hint:

Remember to review order of operations. Students must multiply before adding

# Surface area of cubes: An example

- For a cube, all faces have the same length and width, so for a cube with 4cm length, width, and height.

- Step 1:  $SA = 6(l \times w)$

Number of faces



← Formula for area of a square

- Step 2:  $SA = 6(4 \times 4)$   
 $= 6(16)$   
 $= 96 \text{ cm}^2$

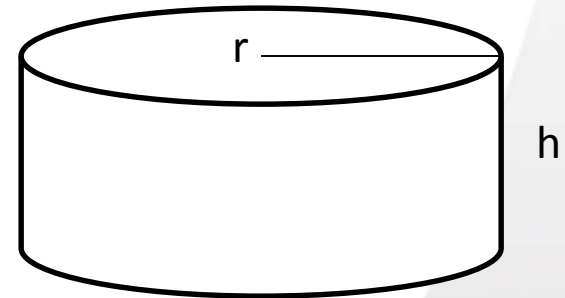


# Surface area of cylinder: An example

- A cylinder is a solid with a circular base
- The height of a cylinder is the distance between its bases

- $SA = 2\pi r^2 + 2\pi rh$

radius  
↓  
height ←



## Helpful Hint:

Remember to the concept of  $\pi$  and that it is a constant and irrational number

# Surface area of cylinder: An example

- Step 1:  $SA = 2\pi(3^2) + 2\pi(3)(4)$

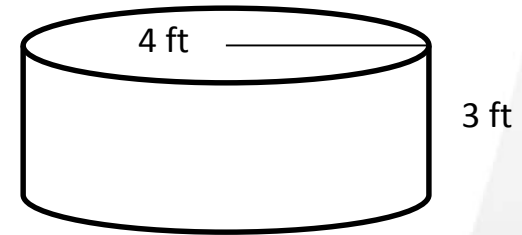
- Step 2:  $SA = 2\pi(9) + 2\pi(12)$

- Step 3:  $SA = 18\pi + 24\pi$

- Step 4:  $SA = 42\pi$

- Step 5:  $SA \approx 131.95 \text{ ft}^2$

Note the change in symbol  
to communicate an  
approximation





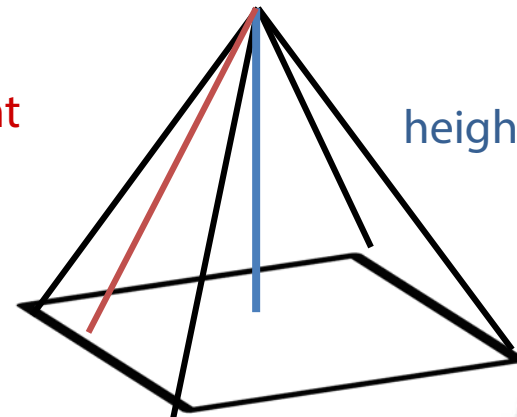
# Surface area of a pyramid: An example

- A pyramid is a polyhedron where the base is a polygon and the faces are triangles with a common vertex

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{base} \rightarrow \\ \text{Lateral area} \swarrow \\ SA = B + L \\ \text{or} \\ SA = B + \frac{1}{2}PI \quad \leftarrow \text{Slant height} \\ \begin{array}{l} \uparrow \\ \text{base} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \uparrow \\ \text{perimeter} \end{array} \end{array}$$

Slant height

height



Regular pyramid: All faces, including the base, are congruent

# Surface area of a pyramid: An example

- $SA = B + \frac{1}{2}Pl$

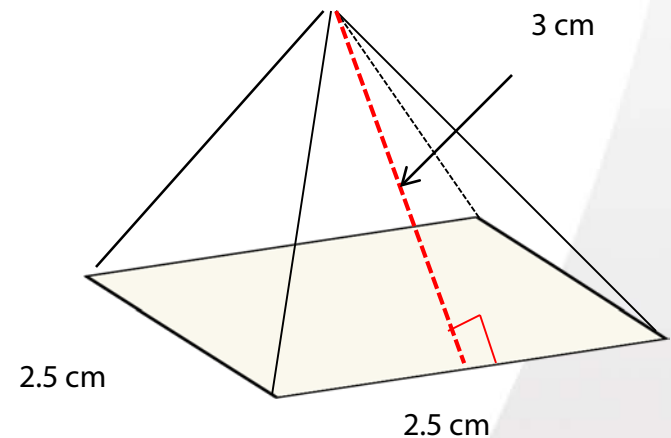
Perimeter =  $4(2.5)$

- Step 1:  $SA = (2.5 \times 2.5) + \frac{1}{2}(10)(3)$

- Step 2:  $SA = 6.25 + \frac{1}{2}(30)$

- Step 3:  $SA = 6.25 + 15$

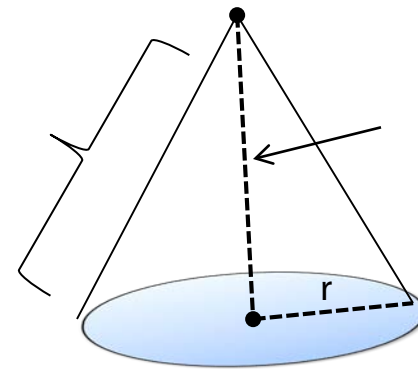
- Step 4:  $SA = 21.25 \text{ in}^2$



# Surface area of a cone: An example

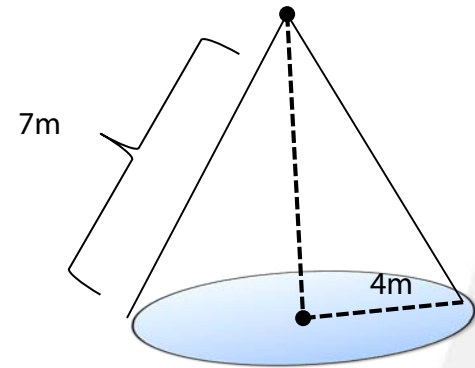
- A cone has a circular base and a vertex.

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{base} \\ \downarrow \\ SA = B + L \quad \swarrow \text{Lateral area} \\ \\ \text{or} \\ \\ SA = \pi r^2 + \pi r l \quad \leftarrow \text{Slant height} \\ \begin{array}{cc} \uparrow & \uparrow \\ \text{radius} & \text{radius} \end{array} \end{array}$$



# Surface area of a cone: An example

- $SA = \pi r^2 + \pi r \ell$
- Step 1:  $SA = \pi(4)^2 + \pi(4)(7)$
- Step 2:  $SA = 16\pi + 28\pi$
- Step 3:  $SA \approx 44\pi$
- Step 4:  $SA \approx 138.2 \text{ m}^2$



Note the change in symbol  
to communicate an  
approximation

# Making Connections

- Finding the volume of three dimensional objects addresses the following 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Core Content Connectors
  - 7-8.NO.3c1 Use the rules for mathematical operations to verify the results when more than one operation is required to solve a problem
  - 7.GM.1h2 Find the surface area of three-dimensional figures using nets of rectangles or triangles
  - 7.GM.1h3 Find the area of plane figures and surface area of solid figures
  - 8.GM.1g1 Recognize congruent and similar figures