

### Volume and Surface Area of Rectangular Prisms

Today we are going to use the *Interactivate Surface Area and Volume* website to explore the relationship between **Width, Depth, Height, Volume, and Surface Area**. (The link to the website is on today’s agenda on the AGGIE Math website.)

The first group have the **Width, Depth, and Height** given. Use the sliders to figure out what the **Volume and Surface Area** are for the given dimensions.

| Width | Depth | Height | Volume | Surface Area |
|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------------|
| 1     | 1     | 1      |        |              |
| 6     | 2     | 1      |        |              |
| 2     | 3     | 4      |        |              |
| 3     | 1     | 8      |        |              |
| 5     | 4     | 6      |        |              |
| 10    | 3     | 4      |        |              |

What common object is an example of the first set of dimensions? \_\_\_\_\_

What common object is an example of the second set of dimensions? \_\_\_\_\_

Next you’re going to work backwards. The chart gives the **Volume or Surface Area**, you have to find the **Width, Depth, and Height**. (There can be more than one combination)

| Width | Depth | Height | Volume | Surface Area |
|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------------|
|       |       |        | 60     |              |
|       |       |        |        | 144          |
|       |       |        | 180    |              |
|       |       |        |        | 72           |
|       |       |        | 90     |              |

Now a challenge. The table below has pairs of rows with the same **Volume**. Your goal is to use two different sets of **Width**, **Depth**, and **Height** that have the same given **Volume**, but **Surface Areas** with as great a difference as possible.

| Width | Depth | Height | Volume | Surface Area | Difference in Surface Area |
|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------------|----------------------------|
|       |       |        | 60     |              |                            |
|       |       |        | 60     |              |                            |
|       |       |        | 240    |              |                            |
|       |       |        | 240    |              |                            |
|       |       |        | 300    |              |                            |
|       |       |        | 300    |              |                            |

What observations can you make about how the shape of the figure changes as the **Volume** stays the same but the **Surface Area** gets smaller or larger. \_\_\_\_\_

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Is there a combination of **Width**, **Depth**, and **Height** where the **Volume** and **Surface Area** are the same? If so, what are the dimensions? \_\_\_\_\_

Is this the only set of dimensions where the **Volume** and **Surface Area** are the same? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, why do you think that is? \_\_\_\_\_

Now that you have some experience with **Volume** and **Surface Area**, write a formula for each using the variable  $w$  (Width),  $d$  (Depth), and  $h$  (Height)

**Volume** formula: \_\_\_\_\_

**Surface Area** formula: \_\_\_\_\_