

## LAB INVESTIGATION 1-2 MEASURING MASS, VOLUME & DENSITY

Sheila Ornstein  
South JHS, Newburgh, NY

**Objectives:** The student will be able to:

1. measure mass and volume (linear and displaced volume)
2. calculate density and percent error
3. explain the relationships between mass, volume and density of a specific substance.

**Materials:** density kit                      metric ruler                      balance                      graduated cylinder  
overflow can                      ESRT                      lined paper                      metric graph paper

**Tips for the Student:**

1. Use the correct units for all values.
2. Find the mass of objects **before** finding the volume.
3. Round your answers to the nearest tenth.
4. Mathematical information:  
1 milliliter = 1 cm<sup>3</sup>                      volume of a cylinder =  $\pi r^2 h$   
volume of a sphere =  $\frac{4}{3} \pi r^3$                       ( $\pi = 3.14$  or  $\frac{22}{7}$ )
5. The % error should not be >10%
6. **READ THE ENTIRE LAB BEFORE YOU BEGIN.**

**Procedure:**

### 1. Finding the mass:

- a. Zero the balance.
- b. Find the mass of each object.
- c. Record your findings on the data table.

### 2. Finding the volume:

- a. Use the water displacement method to determine the volume of the objects.
- b. Record your findings on the data table.
- c. Use the ruler and formulas for finding the linear volume of your objects
- d. Record your findings on the data table.

### 3. Working with the data:

- a. Using scrap paper, compute your average volumes. Record your answers on the data table provided.
- b. Using your average volume, calculate your density. Record this on *Report Sheet #1*. Organize and show all of your work, including the formulas.
- c. Obtain from your teacher the Accepted Value Density and record this on your data table.

- d. Compute your % error. Record this on *Report Sheet #2*. Organize and show all of your work, including formulas.
- e. Also record your % error on the data table.

**4. Graphing Data:**

Plot the line graph of the data of mass and volume of different samples of basalt on separate graph paper.

Label the x-axis "volume in ml" and the y-axis "mass in grams".

Remember to title your graph.

**5. Showing what you learned:**

Answer the following Conclusion Questions on a separate piece of white lined paper.

*Write out each question, highlight it or underline it or use a separate color. On the next line, write out your answer in complete sentences. Skip a line between questions.*

1. Why were the values for density different than those of your classmates and the accepted values?
2. How could your measurements have been made more accurate?
3. What effect does the shape of objects of the same material have on their density? Explain your answer. (Hint: Think about the two different pieces of aluminum.)
4. How would the density of a specific material change if you doubled or halved its size? Explain your answer. (Hint: Check back to the graph on basalt.)
5. Compare the densities of the three states of matter for most substances (not water).
6. How does temperature affect density?
7. How does pressure affect density?
8. How does density relate to the flotation of objects in each other? (Hint: Think of oil in water, ice in liquid water, granite in mercury.)
9. On the graph, what value do the plotted points represent?
10. What type of graphing relationship does the slope of the data represent?
11. Would the graph line of higher density rock samples be above or below the graph line showing the density of basalt?

**DATA TABLE**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

OBJECT	MASS	DISPLACED VOLUME	LINEAR VOLUME	AVERAGE VOLUME	CALCULATED DENSITY	ACCEPTED DENSITY	% ERROR
COPPER CYLINDER							
BRASS CYLINDER							
IRON CYLINDER							
ALUMINUM CYLINDER							
ALUMINUM CUBE							
ALUMINUM BAR							

Show work for Linear Volume:

## REPORT SHEET #1 - DENSITY



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_


**GRAPH OF THE DENSITY OF BASALT**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Graph the following data on the mass and volume of some ideal samples of basalt, broken off from a larger piece:

**VOLUME  
IN MILLILITERS**

**MASS IN GRAMS**

<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>35</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>40</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>45</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>50</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>55</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>60</b>	<b>180</b>
<b>65</b>	<b>195</b>
<b>70</b>	<b>210</b>
<b>75</b>	<b>225</b>
<b>80</b>	<b>240</b>
<b>85</b>	<b>255</b>
<b>90</b>	<b>270</b>
<b>95</b>	<b>285</b>
<b>100</b>	<b>300</b>

Filename: Density Lab  
Directory: C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Local  
Settings\Temporary Internet Files\OLK17  
Template: C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Application  
Data\Microsoft\Templates\Normal.dot  
Title: Regents Earth Science Unit 5  
Vocabulary  
Subject:  
Author: Sheila Ornstein  
Keywords:  
Comments:  
Creation Date: 10/9/2005 10:54:00 AM  
Change Number: 2  
Last Saved On: 10/9/2005 10:54:00 AM  
Last Saved By: Michael Passow  
Total Editing Time: 3 Minutes  
Last Printed On: 10/9/2005 10:55:00 AM  
As of Last Complete Printing  
Number of Pages: 6  
Number of Words: 914 (approx.)  
Number of Characters: 4,218 (approx.)