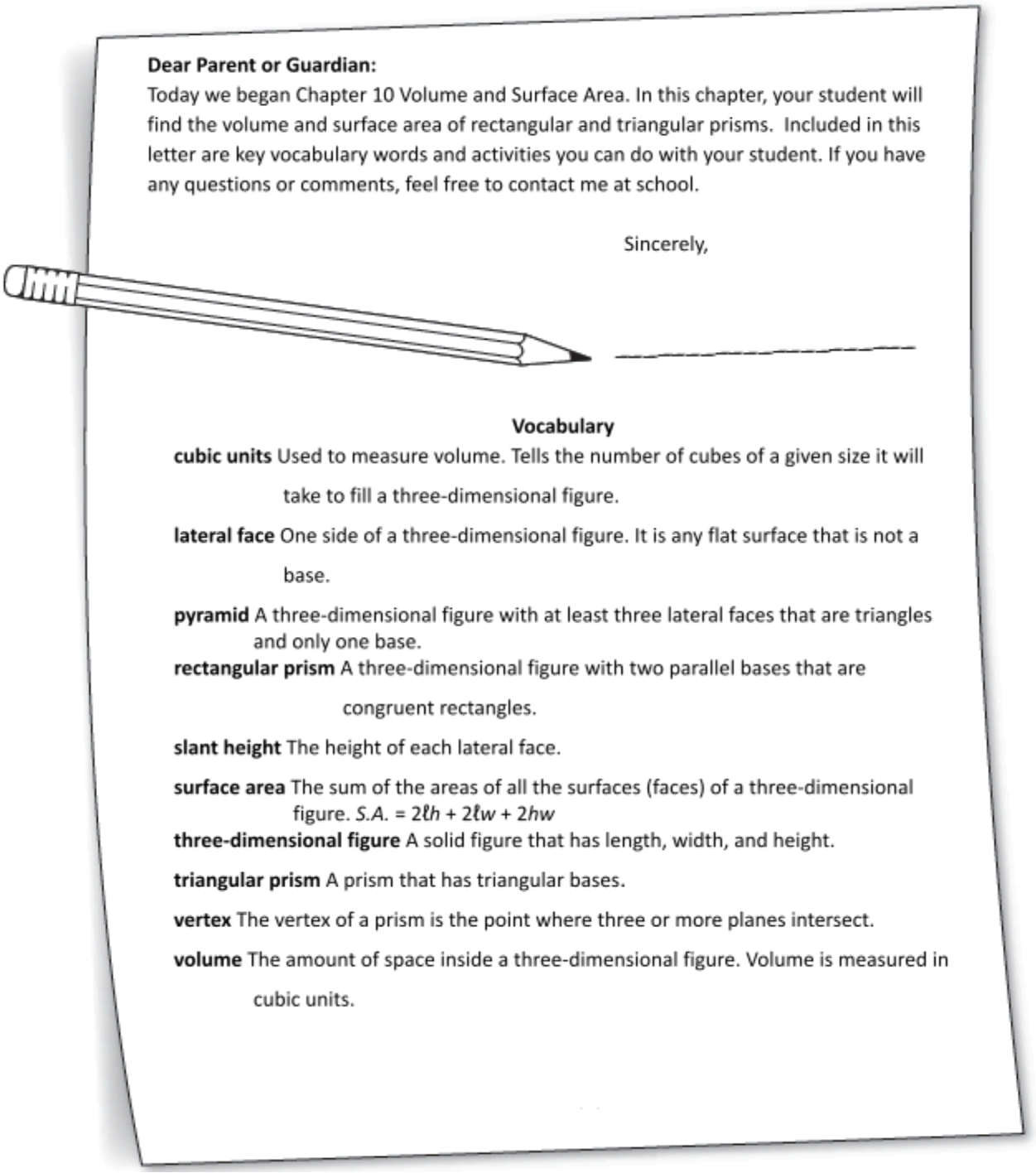
NAME _____ DATE _____ PERIOD_____

Family Letter



Dear Parent or Guardian:

Today we began Chapter 10 Volume and Surface Area. In this chapter, your student will find the volume and surface area of rectangular and triangular prisms. Included in this letter are key vocabulary words and activities you can do with your student. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at school.

Sincerely,

_____

Vocabulary

cubic units Used to measure volume. Tells the number of cubes of a given size it will take to fill a three-dimensional figure.

lateral face One side of a three-dimensional figure. It is any flat surface that is not a base.

pyramid A three-dimensional figure with at least three lateral faces that are triangles and only one base.

rectangular prism A three-dimensional figure with two parallel bases that are congruent rectangles.

slant height The height of each lateral face.

surface area The sum of the areas of all the surfaces (faces) of a three-dimensional figure. $S.A. = 2\ell h + 2\ell w + 2hw$

three-dimensional figure A solid figure that has length, width, and height.

triangular prism A prism that has triangular bases.

vertex The vertex of a prism is the point where three or more planes intersect.

volume The amount of space inside a three-dimensional figure. Volume is measured in cubic units.

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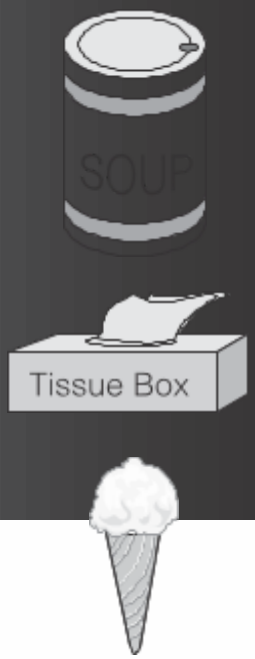
Real-World Activity

- Walk through every room in your house to locate objects shaped like prisms, pyramids, cylinders, and cones.
- If desired, you can have a contest to see who can find the most items of a particular solid.
- Use a ruler to measure dimensions of some of the objects and calculate their volume and/or surface area.



Online Activity

- Research the Internet to find buildings and/or monuments that are entirely or partially shaped like prisms, pyramids, cylinders, or cones. Think of both historical and modern works.
- Find the dimensions of the buildings or monuments.
- Use the dimensions to calculate volume and/or surface area. If these are also given on the Web site, compare your calculations to those given.

