*A problem-solving and modelling task suitable for students working with* ***volume (Focus: Prisms)***

**Modelling Northern Qld**

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**QCAA approach to problem solving and mathematical modelling**

(<https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/downloads/portal/syllabuses/snr_maths_methods_19_syll.pdf>)

**What kind of crab pot gets you the biggest feed?**

Australian curriculum content descriptors:

Year 8

Develop formulas for volumes of rectangular and triangular prisms and prisms in general. Use formulas to solve problems involving volume (ACMMG198)

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**What kind of crab pot gets you the biggest feed?**

Modelling Northern Qld

1. Have you ever used a crab pot to go crabbing? If you have, what makes a good crab pot, in your opinion:

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Research & Formulate

Let’s gather some information about crab pots that can be used to catch a feed of mud crabs. Imagine that David decided to take his son Daley out crabbing one day. David took his boat up to Casement Grove and pulled out the three crab pots below. Only then does David also discover that he hasn’t packed enough bait! He only has enough bait for one pot but wants the chance to catch the most crabs possible for his family to have a big feed. Which is the best crab pot for David and Daley to use?



90cm

1.5m

70cm

110cm

50cm

1.2m

110cm

1.8 m

1.5m

Crab pot 1 Crab pot 2 Crab pot 3

1. What 3D shapes could you use to “model” or represent the general shape of each crab pot? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. What kind of measurement would tell you about the amount of room inside each crab pot: surface area or volume? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. What formulae will be useful in your calculations? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. What information do you need to be able to use the formulae? Do you have it already or could you figure it out? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. After you do some calculations, how will you know which pot is the best one to use? What are you looking for? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Now that you have a plan…

Solve

1. Calculate the volume of all three crab pots. HINT: Make sure that all of the lengths for each pot are in the same unit (all in cm or all in m) before you do any calculations.
2. Compare the volume for your three pots. HINT: The volumes must all be in the same unit (cm3 or m3) so that you can make a good comparison. Based on your calculations, which pot do you think is capable of holding the most crabs and why? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Evaluate & verify

1. Check back at what you wrote for question 1. Based on what you wrote and what you may have researched about catching mud crabs, do you think that choosing a crab pot using volume calculations is a good way to go? What other factors might also be important when choosing a good crab pot?

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Communicate

1. If someone who didn’t live in Queensland bumped into you at the local fishing shop and asked you to help them choose a good crab pot that would “catch me a big feed of mud crabs”, describe the maths they could use to help them decide.

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References:

Images for crab pots

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/enforcement/lost_gear/graphics/square_danielson_crab_pot.jpg> , <https://sc01.alicdn.com/kf/HTB1OOfnHXXXXXaPXVXXq6xXFXXXa/200610959/HTB1OOfnHXXXXXaPXVXXq6xXFXXXa.jpg> , <http://wdfw.wa.gov/enforcement/lost_gear/graphics/triangle_crab_pot.jpg>