## Understand Volume

## I Can use unit cubes to find the volume of a rectangular prism.

## Lesson 2

## Investigate

MTR You can find the volume of a rectangular prism by counting unit cubes. Volume is the measure of the amount of space a three-dimensional figure occupies and is measured in cubic units. Each unit cube has a volume of 1 cubic unit.


The rectangular prism above is made up of $\qquad$ unit cubes and has a volume of $\qquad$ cubic units.

Materials $■$ rectangular prism net $\mathrm{A} ■$ centimeter cubes
A. Cut out, fold, and tape the net to form a rectangular prism.
B. Use centimeter cubes to fill the base of the rectangular prism without gaps or overlaps. Each centimeter cube has a length, width, and height of 1 centimeter and a volume of 1 cubic centimeter.

- How many centimeter cubes make up the length of the first layer? the width? the height?
length: $\qquad$ width: $\qquad$ height: $\qquad$
- How many centimeter cubes are used to fill the base? $\qquad$
C. Continue filling the rectangular prism, layer by layer. Count the number of centimeter cubes used for each layer.
- How many centimeter cubes are in each layer? $\qquad$
- How many layers of cubes fill the rectangular prism? $\qquad$
- How many centimeter cubes fill the prism? $\qquad$
So, the volume of the rectangular prism is $\qquad$ cubic centimeters.


## Draw Conclusions

1. Describe the relationship among the number of centimeter cubes you used to fill each layer, the number of layers, and the volume of the prism.
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$\qquad$
2. MTR If you had a rectangular prism that had a width of 3 units, a length of 4 units, and a height of 2 units, how many unit cubes would you need for each layer? How many unit cubes would you need to fill the rectangular prism?

## Make Connections

To find the volume of three-dimensional figures, you measure in three directions. For a rectangular prism, you measure its length, width, and height. Volume is measured using cubic units, such as cu cm, cu in., or cu ft.


- Which has a greater volume, 1 cu cm or 1 cu in.? Explain.

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$\qquad$

Find the volume of the prism if each cube represents $1 \mathrm{cu} \mathrm{cm}, 1 \mathrm{cu}$ in., and 1 cuft .

$$
3 \text { units }
$$

$\qquad$ cu cm
$\qquad$ cu in.
$\qquad$ cuft

- MTR Would the prism above be the same size if it were built with centimeter cubes, inch cubes, or foot cubes? Explain.
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