

Million Dollar Question

Lesson Plan



Adapted from the Lesson Study by:
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The Task

Your friend has sent you a text saying you can become a millionaire! He tells you that he won \$2 million in a contest. The money was sent to him in two suitcases, each containing \$1 million in one-dollar bills. He will give you one suitcase of money if you can go to the airport and pick up both suitcases. Is it possible that you could get the suitcases at the airport and get them home?

Materials

- The task
- Suitcase
- Paper
- Rulers
- Scale
- Dollar bills
- Calculators
- One large presentation paper per group

Facilitating Task

- Class will be divided into groups of 3-4 students.
- Read the task together and answer clarifying questions.
- Groups will be given materials upon request.
- Give students individual think time and then work together in groups.
- Groups present findings during last 10-15 minutes of class.

Misconceptions

- The accumulated weight is negligible
- The accumulated volume is negligible
- The concept of weight being carried with one's hands

Suggested Prompts or Questions

- How much does one sheet of paper weigh? 20 sheets of paper?
- What is the volume of 10 one-dollar bills?
- How much does a ream of paper weigh? Can one person carry it?