



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Student Exploration: Boyle’s Law and Charles’s Law

**Vocabulary:** absolute zero, Boyle’s law, Charles’s law, Gay-Lussac’s law, Kelvin scale, pressure

**Prior Knowledge Question** (Do this BEFORE using the Gizmo.)

A small helium tank measures about two feet (60 cm) high. Yet it can fill over 50 balloons! How can such a small tank contain enough helium to fill so many balloons?

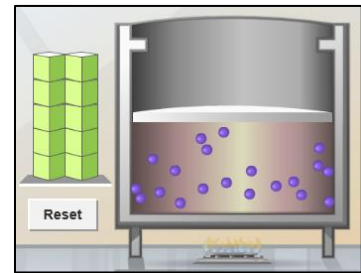
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### Gizmo Warm-up

The *Boyle’s Law and Charles’s Law* Gizmo shows a container of gas. Inside, small purple spheres represent gas molecules.



1. Observe the particles. Are they all moving at the same speed? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How do the particles interact with the walls and lid of the container? \_\_\_\_\_  
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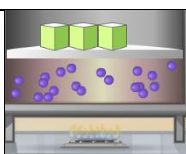
These interactions contribute to the **pressure** on the walls of the container. Pressure is defined as force per unit area. The SI units of pressure are newtons per square meter (N/m<sup>2</sup>), or pascals (Pa).

3. Slowly drag the temperature (**T**) slider back and forth. (Note: In this Gizmo, the **Kelvin scale** is used to measure temperature. On the Kelvin scale, 0 degrees is **absolute zero**, the coldest possible temperature. Absolute zero is equal to -273.15 °C or -459.67 °F)

A. How does the change in temperature affect the speed of the molecules? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. How does the change in temperature affect the volume of the container? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



<b>Activity A:</b> <b>Boyle's law</b>	<u>Get the Gizmo ready:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set the temperature (<math>T</math>) to 300 K.</li> <li>• Check that the mass (<math>m</math>) is set to 0 kg.</li> </ul>	
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**Question: How does pressure affect the volume of a gas?**

1. Form hypothesis: In this experiment, you will pile weights on the lid of the container of gas. What do you think will happen as more weight is added to the lid?

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2. Notice: Look at the DESCRIPTION pane. What is the mass of the lid? \_\_\_\_\_

How much pressure does the lid exert on the gas? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Collect data: With the temperature held constant at 300 K, use the **Select mass** slider to place weights on the lid. Record the pressure and volume of the gas for each added mass.

Added mass on the lid	Total mass (lid + added mass)	Pressure*	Volume
0 kg	10 kg		
10 kg	20 kg		
20 kg	30 kg		
30 kg	40 kg		

\*This model does not include atmospheric pressure, which is 101,325 N/m<sup>2</sup>.

4. Analyze: As the pressure increases at constant temperature, what happens to the volume of the gas? \_\_\_\_\_

This relationship is called **Boyle's law**.

5. Calculate: Compare the pressure and volume values in your data table.

A. How did doubling the pressure change the gas volume? \_\_\_\_\_

B. How did tripling the pressure change the gas volume? \_\_\_\_\_

C. How did quadrupling the pressure change the gas volume? \_\_\_\_\_

**(Activity A continued on next page)**

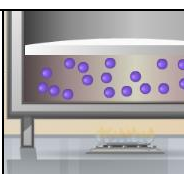
**Activity A (continued from previous page)**

6. Predict: If the added mass on the lid was 50 kg, a total mass of 60 kg would exert pressure on the gas inside the container. What will be the volume of the gas? \_\_\_\_\_
  
7. Test: Test your prediction using the Gizmo. What is the volume of the gas? \_\_\_\_\_  
Was your prediction correct? \_\_\_\_\_
  
8. Create a graph: On the GRAPH tab, select **V vs. P**. Set **m** to 0 kg, and click **Record** to plot a point on the graph. Plot a point for each possible mass to create a graph showing the relationship between pressure and volume.

When your graph is completed, click the **camera** (📷) icon to take a snapshot. Right-click the image, and click Copy Image. Paste the image into a blank word-processing document, and label the graph "Volume vs. Pressure."

- A. What is the shape of the graph? \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - B. How does this graph illustrate Boyle's law? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
  - C. How do you think the graph might change if the temperature was held constant at a higher temperature, say 400 K? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
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9. Apply: Think about a small helium tank that can fill 50 balloons. What must be true about the helium in the tank compared to the helium in the balloons?  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



<b>Activity B:</b> <b>Charles's law</b>	<u>Get the Gizmo ready:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On the SIMULATION pane, set <math>T</math> to 100 K and <math>m</math> to 0 kg.</li> </ul>	
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**Question: How does temperature affect the volume of a gas?**

1. Form hypothesis: How do you think the volume of a gas will change as the temperature rises and falls? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Collect data: Without changing the mass on the lid, record the pressure and volume of the gas at each of the given temperatures.

Temperature	Pressure*	Volume
100 K		
200 K		
300 K		
400 K		
500 K		

\*This model does not include atmospheric pressure, which is 101,325 N/m<sup>2</sup>.

3. Analyze: As the temperature increases at constant pressure, what happens to the volume of the gas? \_\_\_\_\_

This relationship is called **Charles's law**.

4. Explain: Based on the motions of the gas molecules, why do you think the volume changed as it did when the temperature was increased? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Think about it: Why do you think the pressure was the same in each test? \_\_\_\_\_

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**(Activity B continued on next page)**



**Activity B (continued from previous page)**

6. Calculate: Compare the pressure and volume values in your data table.
- A. How did doubling the temperature affect the gas volume? \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. How did tripling the temperature affect the gas volume? \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. How did quadrupling the temperature affect the gas volume? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Predict: Suppose the temperature was 50 K. What will be the volume of the gas? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Test: Test your prediction using the Gizmo. What is the volume of the gas? \_\_\_\_\_

Was your prediction correct? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Create a graph: On the GRAPH tab, select **V vs. T**. Set **T** to 50 K, and click **Record** to plot a point on the graph. Plot a point every 50 degrees to create a graph showing the relationship between temperature and volume.

When your graph is complete, click the **camera** icon to take a snapshot. Paste the image into your document, and label the graph "Volume vs. Temperature."

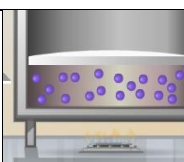
- A. What is the shape of the graph? \_\_\_\_\_
- B. How does this graph illustrate Charles's law? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Apply: Based on what you learned, what would happen to a balloon placed in the freezer?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What would happen to a balloon placed in a warm oven? (Assume it doesn't pop.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Think and discuss: Consider temperature, pressure, and volume. How does the mathematical relationship in Boyle's law compare to that in Charles's law?  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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<b>Activity C:</b> <b>Gay-Lussac's Law</b>	<u>Get the Gizmo ready:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On the SIMULATION pane, set <math>T</math> to 300 K and <math>m</math> to 15 kg.</li> <li>Turn on the <b>Constant volume</b> checkbox.</li> </ul>	
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**Question: How does temperature affect the pressure of a gas when volume is constant?**

1. Form hypothesis: If the volume of a gas is held constant, how do you think the pressure will change as temperature increases? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Collect data: Select the TABLE tab. Record the pressure when  $T = 100$  K, 200 K, and so forth up to 500 K. (Note: The volume will remain constant at  $1.02 \text{ m}^3$ .)

Temperature	Pressure	$\frac{\text{Pressure}}{\text{Temperature}}$
100 K		
200 K		
300 K		
400 K		
500 K		

3. Analyze: Divide the pressure by the temperature to fill in the last column of the table. Since  $1 \text{ N/m}^2$  is equal to 1 pascal (Pa), write the units of the ratio as Pa/K.

A. When the volume is held constant, how does the pressure change as temperature increases? \_\_\_\_\_

B. What do you notice about the ratio of pressure to temperature, when volume is constant? \_\_\_\_\_

**Gay-Lussac's law** states that, at constant volume, the ratio of pressure to temperature is constant. As temperature increases, pressure increases as well.

4. Explain: Based on the motions of the gas molecules, why do you think the pressure changed as it did when the temperature was increased? \_\_\_\_\_

**(Activity C continued on next page)**



**Activity C (continued from previous page)**

5. Calculate: Compare the pressure and temperature values in your data table.

A. At constant volume, how did doubling the temperature affect the pressure? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B. How did tripling the temperature affect the pressure? \_\_\_\_\_

C. How did quadrupling the temperature affect the gas pressure? \_\_\_\_\_

1. Create a graph: Record the pressure for temperatures of 50 K, 150 K, 250 K, 350 K, and 450 K. On the GRAPH tab, select ***P vs. T***. Click the **camera** icon to take a snapshot. Paste the image into your document, and label the graph "Pressure vs. Temperature."

A. What is the shape of the graph? \_\_\_\_\_

B. How does this graph illustrate Gay-Lussac's law? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Apply: Based on what you learned, what do you think would happen if you placed a sealed container of gas into a fire? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Challenge: Combine Boyle's law, Charles's law, and Gay-Lussac's law into a single proportional relationship between pressure ( $P$ ), volume ( $V$ ), and temperature ( $T$ ). Use the symbol " $\propto$ " to represent "is proportional to."

Explain your reasoning. \_\_\_\_\_

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