



Name: _____

Date: _____

Student Exploration: Boyle's Law and Charles' Law

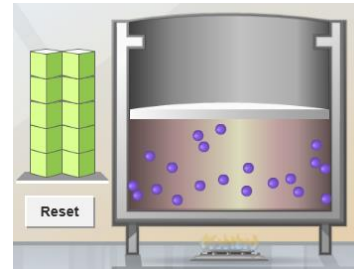
Vocabulary: absolute zero, Boyle's law, Charles' law, Gay-Lussac's law, Kelvin scale, pressure

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?

Gizmo Warm-up

The *Boyle's Law and Charles' Law* Gizmo shows a container of gas. In the container, the small purple spheres represent 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? _____

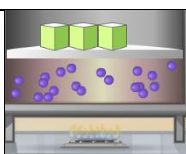
These interactions contribute to the **pressure** on the walls of the container. Pressure is defined as force per unit area. The SI units of pressure are newtons per square meter (N/m^2), or pascals (Pa).

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 $-273.15\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ or $-459.67\text{ }^\circ\text{F}$)

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? _____



Activity A: Boyle's law	<u>Get the Gizmo ready:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set the temperature (T) to 300 K. • Check that the mass (m) is set to 0 kg. 	
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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?

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/m².

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.

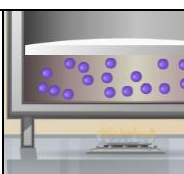
When your graph is completed, click the **camera** (📷) icon to take a snapshot. Right-click the image, and click Copy Image. Paste the image into a blank word-processing document, and label the graph "Volume vs. Pressure."

- 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? _____

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?



Activity B: Charles' law	<u>Get the Gizmo ready:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the SIMULATION pane, set T to 100 K and m to 0 kg. 	
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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/m².

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

This relationship is called **Charles' 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? _____

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

(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."

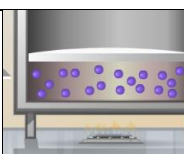
- A. What is the shape of the graph? _____
- B. How does this graph illustrate Charles' law? _____

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' law?



Activity C: Gay-Lussac's Law	<u>Get the Gizmo ready:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the SIMULATION pane, set T to 100 K and m to 0 kg. 	
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Question: How does temperature affect the pressure of a gas when volume is constant?

- Form hypothesis: If the volume of a gas is held constant, how do you think the pressure will change as temperature increases? _____
- Collect data: Record the volume and pressure when $T = 100$ K and $m = 0$ kg. Then, change T to 200 K. Adjust the m slider until the volume is the *same* as it was when T was 100 K. Record the volume and pressure. Then, repeat for the other temperatures.

Temperature	Volume	Pressure	<u>Pressure</u> <u>Temperature</u>
100 K			
200 K			
300 K			
400 K			
500 K			

- Analyze: Divide the pressure by the temperature to fill in the last column of the table.
 - When the volume is held constant, how does the pressure change as temperature increases? _____
 - 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.

- 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.

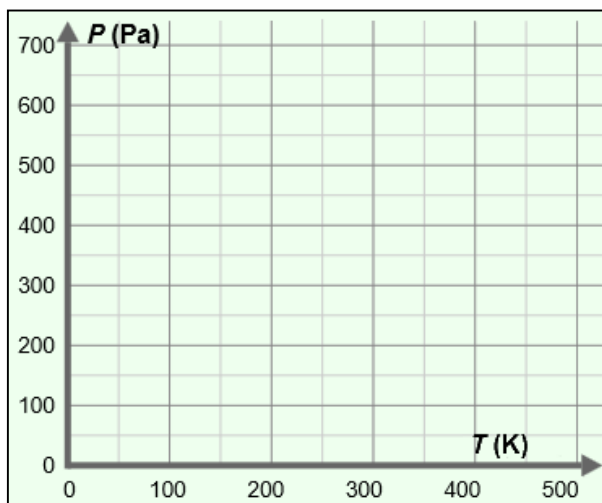
A. At constant volume, how did doubling the temperature affect the pressure? _____

B. How did tripling the temperature affect the pressure? _____

C. How did quadrupling the temperature affect the gas volume? _____

6. Create a graph: Use your data from the previous page to create a graph of temperature vs. pressure on the blank grid to the right, assuming a constant volume of 0.85 m^3 . Draw a line or curve to connect the points on the graph.

What is true about the line connecting the points? _____



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

8. Challenge: Combine Boyle's law, Charles' 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. _____

