

The Perfect Pringle® Packing Contest

Objective: The goal of this activity is to mail a single Pringle's® brand potato chip through the U.S. Postal Service and have it arrive to the school in one whole piece.

The Pringle® potato chip was chosen because of its uniform shape and thickness. It must be a standard size Original Flavor unaltered Pringle® potato chip. Finally, to receive credit, the student mailing the chip must demonstrate that it has been unaltered by eating the chip after it has been judged. You must use a whole, unbroken chip to start with!!

Contest Guidelines:

1. The package must be rectangular in shape so that its volume can be easily calculated by using the volume of a rectangular box. Do NOT use mailing envelopes (padded or unpadded) or mailing tubes. They will result in a 50 point deduction, or possible disqualification.
2. Maximum mass of package plus chip is 112 grams. The postal service uses English units. 112 grams is about 4 ounces. When you take your package to the post office, it cannot weigh more than 4 ounces or you will have to change your package. Any package weighing more than 4 ounces (112 grams) will receive a 20 point grade deduction. (**NOTE:** The postal service gives a wide variance on what they call 4 ounces, so beware!!) If you desire, you may use a lab balance at school to mass the package material beforehand.
3. The packaging material may NOT be of the commercial variety. Packing peanuts, bubble sheets, Styrofoam pellets, etc., will be grounds for disqualification and a grade of zero. The packaging material must be from commonly available household materials. Pre-made boxes may be used.
4. The mailing date to the school must be on or before Monday, December 15, 2008. To ensure credibility, the student must provide an original receipt from the post office showing the mailing date, etc. Write your name on the receipt and give it to the teacher soon after mailing. Failure to provide a receipt will cause a deduction of 5 points and will make the package ineligible for extra credit. Late mailings will receive a 20 point grade deduction and no bonus. **Note: packages mailed from the Somerset post office will receive an automatic 10 point grade deduction and no bonus.**
5. The package must be mailed through the United States Postal Service using regular First Class mail (not insured – not priority)!! No other mailing service (such as UPS) can be used! **“Handle with Care”**, **“Fragile”**, etc. cannot be stamp on package. Stamping of any kind will receive a 50-point deduction and no bonus.

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6. The package is to be addressed to:
Mr. Papaleo
Somerset High School
Grandview Ave
Somerset, MA 02726

The return address should be to the student and clearly labeled on the package.

7. On Judgment Day, (Tuesday, December 23, 2008) the package will be opened by the student (after the package mass and volume have been determined). The chip must be completely removed from the package unbroken. After judging, the student must EAT the potato chip. Failure to eat the potato chip will result in a 50 point grade deduction.

Grading:

The contest is worth 100 points. A package meeting the specifications outlined above with a perfectly whole unbroken chip will receive a grade of 100 points. A cracked or slightly broken chip will be worth 90 points. A chop broken into a few pieces is worth 80 points. A pulverized or “soggy” chip is worth 70 points. Failure to provide a receipt will cause a deduction of 5 grade points and will make the package ineligible for bonus points. If your chip did not survive and was broken in some way, you may do an optional lab report to improve your grade. You must follow the report guidelines listed at the bottom of this page.

Bonus points:

(Note: student must be present on judgment day to be eligible for bonus points!)

- The least massive successful (unbroken chip) package is worth 10 bonus points, second place 5 bonus points.
- The successful package with the smallest volume is worth 10 bonus points, second place 5 bonus points.
- The successful package mailed from the greatest distance will be worth 10 bonus points, second place 5 bonus points. If the package is mailed to a relative/friend and then returned to the school, all mailing receipts must be provided. If the package is mailed one way from a distance location, receipt from that location is required. Remember, the final mailing to the school must be on or before December 15, 2008. The greatest distance traveled will be calculated from receipts and postmarks.

Lab Report Guidelines:

1. Must be turned in the first day school resumes after Christmas break.
2. Must be neatly typed, double-spaced, one to two full pages in length.
3. Must be based on what you were trying to do and why did it fail.
4. Finally, you **MUST** relate aspects of this activity to things we have studied and learned in class. The more ways you relate it to class, the better. (This part is important!)

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5. No calculations are required. Furthermore, you do NOT need to follow formal lab report guidelines.
6. Should be written in paragraph format using complete sentences and proper grammar and spelling.
7. Understand that simply doing a lab report does not guarantee an "A." It must be **well done** to get the most points.