

Your Interview Question is...

You are doing well so far in your interview with the Can-Can Company. Your palms start to sweat as they ask you the can design question. The interviewer, Mr. Leibniz, reads the following question to you from his notes:

Suppose that a soup company hires our company to develop a can for them. The soup company makes single servings, family servings, and economy-size servings of soup. No matter how many cubic units of soup there are, the soup company would like to minimize the surface area and thus the cost of making the can. Assuming that the can is a right circular cylinder, what should the ratio of the height to the radius be for any volume can?



Extra: Mr. Leibniz will be very impressed if you comment on the relevance of his last name to the history of mathematics.

The Math Forum's Problems of the Week provide non-routine constructed response problems. The advanced problems target concepts from discrete math, trigonometry, and calculus. Memberships and mentoring options are available at the student, teacher, school, and district levels.