## Writing Expressions

## Part I: Boxes

An artist makes custom boxes that are cubes (each edge is the same length). Each face of the box is made from a decorative material that comes in sheets and is sold by the square inch ( $\mathrm{in}^{2}$ ). All of the edges are joined by a material that is sold by the inch.


1. The edge of the box is 4 inches long. For each of the questions below, record your calculations even if you use a calculator.
a. Calculate the total amount of material needed for all of the faces.
b. Calculate the cost of the material for the faces if the price is $\$ 0.15$ per square inch.
c. Calculate the total amount of material needed for all of the edges of the box.
d. Calculate the cost of the material for the edges if the price is $\$ 0.06$ per inch.
e. In addition to the materials for the faces and edges, each box has one set of latches and hinges that cost $\$ 1.25$. Find the total cost of the box.
2. The artist makes boxes of many different sizes. She wants to set up a computer spreadsheet that will automatically calculate the cost of the materials for each box size. Write an algebraic expression for the cost of the materials using $s$ as the length of the edge in inches. Hint: Think about each step in calculating the cost in \#1.
3. Your expression in $\# 2$ is a polynomial. Identify the following characteristics of this polynomial:

| Type (monomial, <br> binomial, etc.) | Leading Term | Leading <br> Coefficient | Degree | Constant |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |  |  |

## Part II: Other Applications

4. In 1900, the life expectancy for a white male living in the US was approximately 48 years. Through the first half of the $20^{\text {th }}$ century, the life expectancy increased by about 0.37 years per year. (source: InfoPlease, http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0005140.html.)
a. Calculate the average life expectancies in the following table. Record your calculation in the third column.

| Year | Life Expectancy | Calculation |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1901 |  |  |
| 1902 |  |  |
| 1905 |  |  |
| 1920 |  |  |
| 1945 |  |  |

b. Write an expression for the life expectancy using $t$ for the number of years after 1900 .
5. The 1900 life expectancy for non-white males in the US was 35.5 years and has increased by approximately 0.39 years per year.
a. Calculate the life expectancy for a non-white male in 1945.
b. How much longer was the life expectancy for white males compared to non-white males in 1945 ?
c. Write an expression for the life expectancy of non-white males using $t$ for the number of years after 1900.
d. Write a simplified expression for the difference in life expectancy for white males compared to non-white males. (Hint: Think about your calculation in part b.)

