

CIT National Mole Day Competition 2011

The Departments of Chemical Engineering and Chemistry in CIT launch this year's National Mole Day Competition for Irish Second Level Schools.

Help us celebrate National Mole Day in Ireland by entering our competition for schools. Show us how your school celebrated Mole Day and you could win a laptop for your school. We are also running an individual prize for students. Enter your poster, flag or animation on the Mole Day theme and be in with a chance to win an Apple iPad for yourself. For full details of our competitions visit www.cit.ie/moleday.



The mole celebrated on National Mole Day is not the furry underground creature that leaves behind mounds of earth but a unit used in chemistry. On Mole Day, science teachers and students around the world commemorate Avogadro's Number, 6.02×10^{23} . One mole of any substance contains Avogadro's Number of molecules or atoms of that substance and this is why Mole Day is celebrated each year from 6:02 am to 6:02 pm on the 23rd of October.

Photograph Michael David Hill, 2005

Mole Day was created as a way to encourage interest in chemistry and schools around the world celebrate Mole Day with some tongue-in-cheek activities related to chemistry and moles. Every year a theme is set for the celebration; last year it was Moles of the Caribbean, this year it is Moles of the Round Table.

As Mole Day takes place on a Sunday this year we will be celebrating it on **Friday the 21st of October**. We will have to wait until next year to celebrate it on the actual day. If you want to celebrate Mole Day in your school, here are some ideas to get you started:

- Toast the mole with 18g of water
- Have a Molympics – any mole related sport can be included here but don't forget the 6:02 minute relay
- Have a Mole Day pun or joke competition.

Why was there only one Avogadro? *When they made him, they broke the moled*

How much did Avogadro exaggerate? *He made mountains out of molehills*

Visit www.moleday.org for more details on Mole Day itself and a longer list of ideas to help you celebrate this unusual day. Have a look at the winning entries from last year's competition on our facebook page www.facebook.com/moleday.