**Exploring The Size of a Million Dollars**



Just as you decide to go to bed one night, the phone rings and a friend offers you a chance to be a millionaire. He tells you he won $2 million in a contest. The money was sent to him in two suitcases, each containing $1 million in one-dollar bills. He will give you one suitcase of money if your mom or dad will drive him to the airport to pick it up. Could your friend be telling you the truth? Can he make you a millionaire?

Involve students in formulating and exploring questions to investigate the truth of this claim. For example:

* Can $1,000,000 in one-dollar bills fit in a standard-sized suitcase? If not, what is the smallest denomination of bills you could use to fit the money in a suitcase?
* Could you lift the suitcase if it contained $1,000,000 in one-dollar bills? Estimate its weight.

Calculators should be available to facilitate and expedite the computation for analysis.

Note: The dimensions of a one-dollar bill are approximately 6 inches by 2.5 inches. Twenty one‑dollar bills weigh approximately 0.7 ounces.