

A weather balloon rising through the atmosphere, has its volume expanding from 6.0 m^3 to 15 m^3 as the temperature drops from 22°C to -12°C . If the initial gas pressure inside the balloon is 1.0 atm, what is the final pressure?

Given:

$$\text{Initial volume of the balloon: } V_i = 6.0 \text{ m}^3$$

$$\text{Final volume of the balloon: } V_f = 15 \text{ m}^3$$

$$\text{Initial temperature in the balloon: } T_i = 22^\circ\text{C} = 295 \text{ K}$$

$$\text{Final temperature in the balloon: } T_f = -12^\circ\text{C} = 261 \text{ K}$$

$$\text{Initial gas pressure in the balloon: } P_i = 1.0 \text{ atm}$$

To determine: final gas pressure in the balloon: P_f

Use formula:

$$PV = nRT \quad \text{---(1)}$$

R is the gas constant and has a value of 8.314 J / mol

Then:

$$P_i V_i = n R T_i \quad \text{---(2)}$$

$$P_f V_f = n R T_f \quad \text{---(3)}$$

Combining (2) & (3) and rearranging:

$$P_f = P_i V_i T_f / V_f T_i \quad \text{---(4)}$$

Substituting P_i , V_i , T_i , T_f and V_f in (4):

$$P_f = (1.0 \times 6 \times 261) / (15 \times 295) = 0.35 \text{ atm}$$