

Will the Tablecloth Fit?

Strand:	Measurement and Geometry
Topic:	Solving practical problems involving perimeter and area
Primary SOL:	4.7 The student will solve practical problems that involve determining perimeter and area in U.S. Customary and metric units.
Related SOL:	4.4a, b, d

Materials

- Table Measurements activity sheet (attached)
- Manipulative materials (to include, but not be limited to: scissors, centimeter cubes, centimeter grid paper, color tiles, glue, scratch paper, colored pencils/crayons)
- Problem-solving Questions I Need to Ask Myself (Attached)
- Everyday Perimeter and Area Problem-solving Task Cards (attached)

Vocabulary

addends, area, area model, array, diagram, factor, formula, length, measure, measurement, perimeter, polygon, product, rectangle, sides, square, sum, unit, width

Student/Teacher Actions: What should students be doing? What should teachers be doing?

Note: In advance, set up a station or table with materials that can be used by students for problem solving.

1. Arrange students in pairs. Present the following scenario to students, also described on the Table Measurements activity sheet, which can be projected using a demonstration tool (e.g., document camera, digital display). Allow students to read the scenario independently, then have a volunteer read it to the class. Clarify for the class what a catering company does. It may be helpful to have a tablecloth and demonstrate how it can be placed on a table, in case some students are not familiar with tablecloths.

Mr. Hill runs a catering company. He has an event today and must set up three tables covered with black tablecloths for the guests. The only rectangular tablecloths that are clean will cover a table measuring 42 square feet, because they are 6 feet wide and 7 feet long. Using a diagram of the available tables, are there at least three tables that can be used for the event that can be covered by the tablecloths? Show your work and justify your solution.

Distribute the Problem Solving Questions I Need to Ask Myself handout, and ask student pairs to think about the questions. Then ask volunteers to share the team's thoughts about each question. After clarifying the situation and the question, ask students to help generate vocabulary that could be used to communicate their problem solving clearly on their written artifacts. Create a list of viable words suggested by students. Ask, "Without giving away a solution strategy or solution to the problem, what mathematics language could be used as part of your solution?" Allow a few minutes for

brainstorming. If the words *length*, *width*, *area*, and *perimeter* are not generated by students, suggest these words as potential words to be considered in student work.

{See Remix Notes}

2. Have partners work together to determine the solution to the problem. Monitor student conversations to ensure that students do not have misconceptions regarding the meaning of area and how it is determined.
 - a. As you walk around, identify the solutions to use as the basis for the whole-class discussion. Then, let the partnerships know which solution you want them to draw and label with the dimensions and the area on the board.
 - b. Also take note as student pairs make connections to multiplication arrays and how area can be found more efficiently by multiplying the length and width of the rectangle together and which partners to call on during the whole-class debrief about finding area and perimeter.
3. Gather students in a whole group setting to first debrief the solutions to the problem and then follow that conversation with a discussion about what the students uncovered about the processes for finding area.
 - a. To launch the discussion about the solutions to the problem, invite the partners you selected to record the solution they were assigned on the board. Then facilitate a conversation to have students share how they approached the problem and how they arrived at their solutions.
 - b. Next, spark a conversation regarding the connections students made between area of rectangular shapes, the various processes students used to find the area, which processes were most efficient, and how the processes are connected to the formula to determine the measurements of area.
 - c. The formula for finding the area of any rectangle is length \times width, which leads to $A = l \times w$. The formula for finding the area of the special rectangle—the square—is $s \times s$, which leads to $A = s \times s$. The formulas can be connected to the factors in a rectangular array.
4. Prepare students to use the formulas for finding the area and the perimeter of rectangular shapes to solve real-world/contextual problems. Ask students to share situations in real life where someone would need to find the area or the perimeter.

{Now is time to compare the two measurements.} Have students share the similarities and differences between the area and the perimeter of rectangular shapes. Then ask student pairs to each make up and write on notebook paper two problems, one that requires finding area and one that requires finding perimeter for a rectangular shape. Student pairs will exchange papers and solve each other's problems. When the class is finished, have the two pairs come together to discuss the problems and solutions.

Assessment

- **Questions**
 - How does using a rectangular open-area model for multiplication help with efficiently determining the area of a rectangular shape?

- How would you explain how the formulas to determine area and perimeter were developed?
- Marcus says he has a sheet of plywood that has an area of 72 square inches and it is 8 inches wide and 9 inches long. Paul says he does not think that can be correct because he has a sheet of plywood that is 72 square inches but his piece is 4 inches by 18 inches. What do you think about this situation, and what would you suggest the two friends consider regarding their disagreement?
- **Journal/writing prompts**
 - Describe a situation in which you would need to find the area of a rectangular space or shape.
 - Your mom wants to carpet the living room. She says she needs to measure the perimeter. Is she correct, why or why not?
 - A new student joins the class, and the teacher asks you to explain how the measurements of area and perimeter are similar and different.
- **Other Assessments**
 - Monitor students closely as they work on the problem to discover and correct misconceptions regarding the measurements of perimeter and area.
 - Analyze student recording sheets for clear and accurate communication of mathematical language associated with perimeter and area.
 - Ask students to talk with several adults and ask them when they use area and perimeter measurements in their work or home life and make a list about what they learn.

Extensions and Connections

- Write a formula for finding the perimeter of any figure with three or more sides.
- Provide students with a set of Perimeter and Area Problem-solving Task Cards. Students can work with a partner or independently to determine perimeter or area of real-world problems.
- Use tiles to construct five different multiplication arrays that have a total area of 72 square units. What is the perimeter of each array? Which array has the greatest perimeter?
- You are getting a new chicken and you want to build a rectangular pen. You have 18 feet of fencing. What are the possible dimensions of the pen? Which dimensions would you recommend? Why?

Strategies for Differentiation

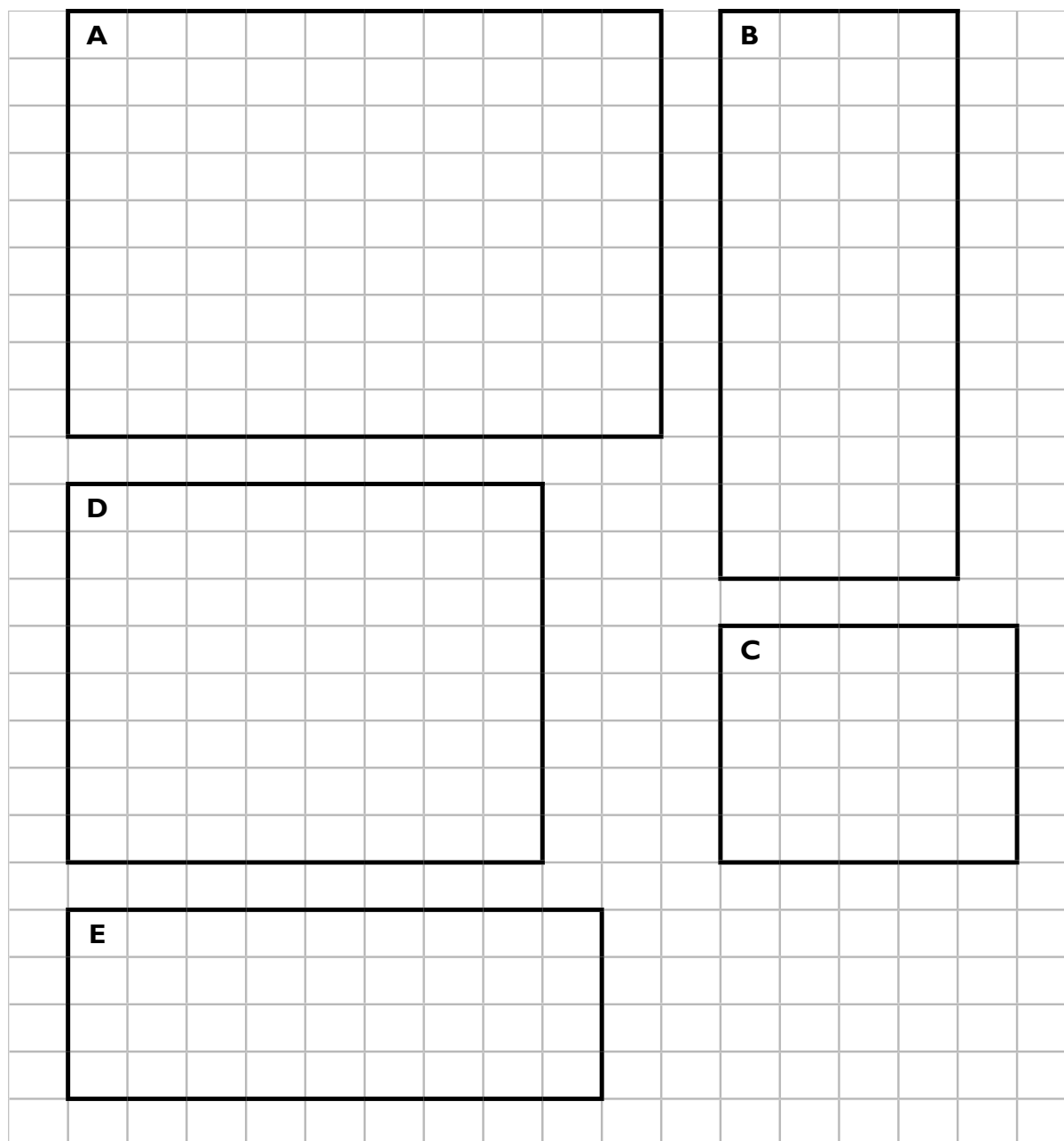
- Encourage students to use tiles or centimeter cubes during the tablecloth activity as needed.
- Encourage students to act out the scenario and to draw out the scenario for enhanced engagement and entry points for problem solving.
- Some of the Everyday Perimeter and Area Problem-solving Task Cards encourage application of the concept of area and perimeter for providing depth of these concepts for high-ability students. Allow these students to work on the “Challenge” cards.

Note: The following pages are intended for classroom use for students as a visual aid to learning.

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Table Measurements

Mr. Hill runs a catering company. He has an event today and must set up three tables covered with black tablecloths for the guests. The only rectangular tablecloths that are clean will cover a table measuring 42 square feet, because they are 6 feet wide and 7 feet long. Using a diagram of the available tables, are there at least three tables that can be used for the event that can be covered by the tablecloths? Show your work and justify your solution.

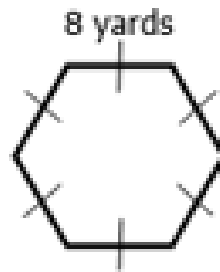


Problem-solving Questions I Need to Ask Myself

- What do I know?
- What do I want to know?
- What information given is important to what I want to know?
- What can I do to find the answer?
- Does the answer make sense for the situation and why?

Everyday Perimeter and Area Problem-solving Task Cards

A hexagonal playground will be built behind a school. A diagram of the playground is pictured below.



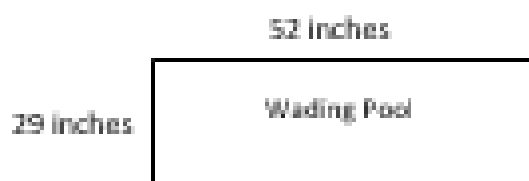
What is the perimeter of this playground?

The representation below shows the top of a desk in a conference room.



The office staff wants to buy a piece of glass to cover the table. What does the area of the glass need to be to fit the table exactly?

Andrea wants to put a decorative edge around her wading pool.



What measurement must be determined in order to know how much edging she needs to purchase?
How much edging does she need to purchase?

A contractor wants to put down carpet in a bedroom that measures 18 feet by 9 feet. Draw a picture to represent the bedroom dimensions. How much carpet will be needed to fit into this space?

Elizabeth is making a square picture frame for herself and each of her three friends. She is using popsicle sticks that measure 4 inches long to make each side of the square frame. She wants to glue ribbon to the sides as a border for the frame. How much ribbon will she need for the frames she wants to make?

Sharon is putting down tile in her kitchen. The kitchen is 12 feet by 26 feet. How tile will she need to buy to cover the kitchen floor?

Everyday Perimeter and Area Problem-solving Task Cards

CHALLENGE

Fred is building a rectangular pen for his pig. He wants his pig to have plenty of space to play so he is using 48 feet of fencing. What dimensions could the pig pen be if the sides are whole a whole number of feet long?

Draw and label the dimensions of each pen that Fred could build.
Show as many solutions as you can.

CHALLENGE

An area downtown needs to be roped off for a holiday event. Officials determined that the area will need to be rectangular and measure 120 meters by 225 meters. Draw a picture to represent the area and figure out the length of rope that will be needed to make sure the area is enclosed to people who are not attending the event.

CHALLENGE

What is the length of the side that is missing a measurement?

What is the perimeter of the shape?

How could area be found on a figure such as this one? Explain your thoughts with words and pictures.

