Perimeter and Area — Knowledge Organiser

Key Vocabulary

- metre
- kilometre
- perimeter
- length
- width
- rectangle
- rectilinear
- dimensions

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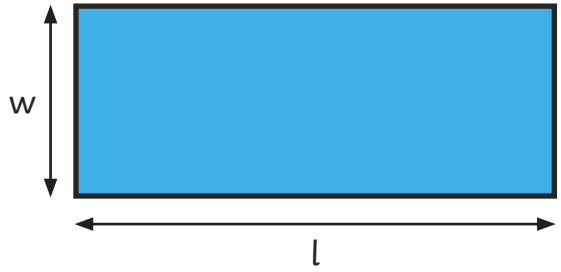
Measure Perimeter

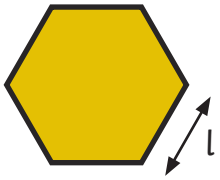
Measure the perimeter of a rectangle:



Measure the length (l) and width (w).

Perimeter = l + w + l + w or (l + w) × 2

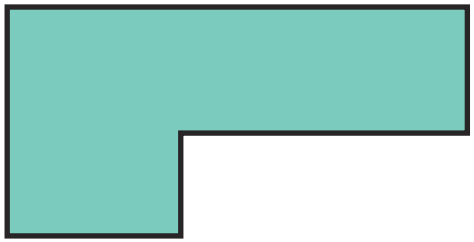
Measure the perimeter of regular shapes:



Measure the length (l) and count the number of sides (s) on the shape.

Perimeter = l × s

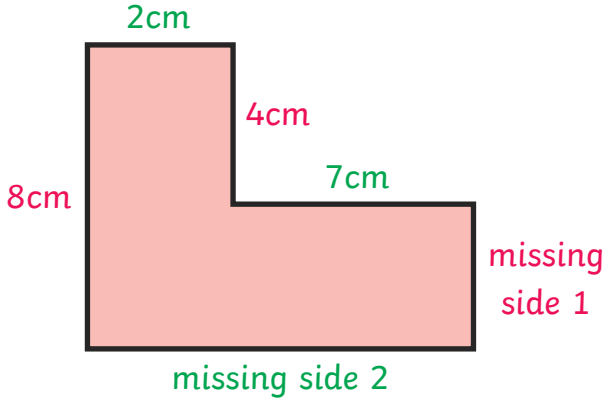
Measure the perimeter of irregular shapes:



Measure the length of each side and add them together.

Calculate Perimeter

Calculate the missing sides of this rectilinear shape to find the perimeter:



** This shape is not drawn to the dimensions specified.*

Missing side 1 + 4cm = 8cm,
so missing side 1 = 4cm.

Missing side 2 = 2cm + 7cm = 9cm

Perimeter = sum of all sides =
2cm + 4cm + 7cm + 4cm + 9cm + 8cm = 34cm

Length and Perimeter

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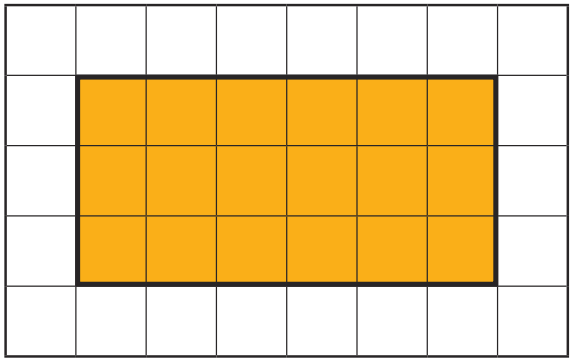
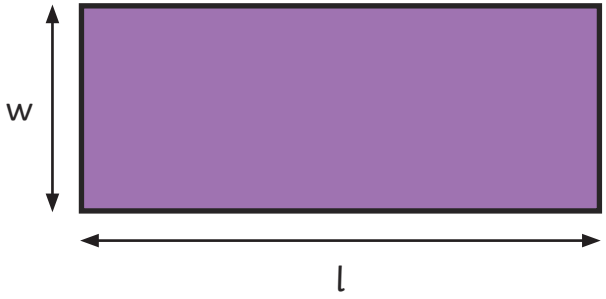
Area of Rectangles

The area of a rectangle on a grid:



Multiply the length × width
= 6 × 3 = 18 squares.

The area of a rectangle = length (l) × width (w).



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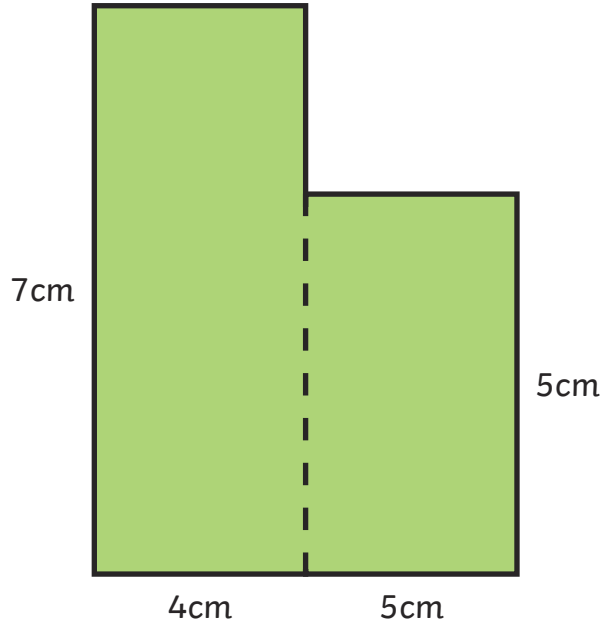
Area of Compound Shapes

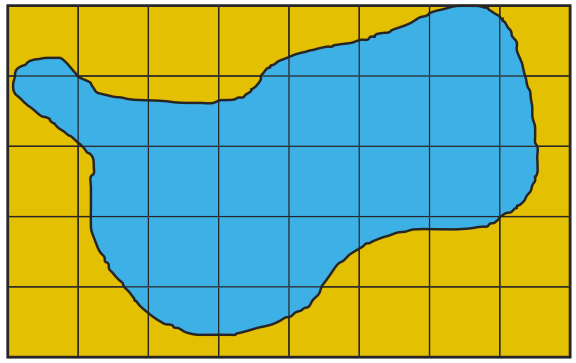
To find the area of a compound shape, divide the shape into rectangles with known dimensions:



Area = 7cm × 4cm + 5cm × 5cm
= 28cm² + 25cm²
= 53cm²

Area of Irregular Shapes

To find the area of an irregular shape, find the number of whole squares and part squares.



Whole squares = 10
Part squares = 22

Estimate of area = whole squares + half part squares

= 10cm² + 11cm² = 21cm²

*There are other ways to estimate the area of irregular shapes.