

Area and Perimeter of Composite Figures

Composite figures are made of two or more rectangles stuck together. Break them apart, find each piece's area, then add. For perimeter, walk all the way around and add up the side lengths.

Key Concepts

1. A **composite figure** (or compound figure) is a shape made by joining simple shapes — usually rectangles.
2. To find the **area** of a composite shape, split it into rectangles, find each area separately, and add them up.
3. To find the **perimeter**, add up all the outside side lengths. Be careful: pretend you are walking the outside edge — do not count any inner walls.
4. Always label your pieces and write each step before adding. Composite problems have several numbers; staying organized is half the work.

Worked Examples

① An L-shape is made of a 4×2 rectangle and a 4×3 rectangle. What is the total area?

 Area of piece 1: $4 \times 2 = 8$. Area of piece 2: $4 \times 3 = 12$. Add: $8 + 12 = 20$ square units.

 **Answer:** 20 sq units

② A T-shape has outer sides: 2, 6, 2, 3, 6, 3. What is its perimeter?

 Just add every outer side: $2 + 6 + 2 + 3 + 6 + 3 = 22$ units.

 **Answer:** 22 units

③ Two squares of side 3 are placed side by side. What is the area and perimeter?

 Area: each square is $3 \times 3 = 9$, and there are 2, so total = 18 square units. Perimeter: the new shape is a 3×6 rectangle. $P = 2 \times 3 + 2 \times 6 = 18$ units.

 **Answer:** Area = 18 sq units; Perimeter = 18 units

Practice Problems

Find the area or perimeter of each composite figure.

1. Two rects: 3×4 and 3×2 . $A = ?$ _____

2. Two rects: 5×2 and 5×3 . $A = ?$ _____

3. Outer sides: 4, 2, 2, 4, 6, 6. $P = ?$ _____

4. Two squares, side 4, side by side. $A = ?$ _____

5. Outer sides: 3, 3, 5, 2, 2, 5. $P = ?$ _____

6. Two rects: 6×1 and 4×3 . $A = ?$ _____

7. Three rects: 2×3 , 2×3 , 2×3 . $A = ?$ _____

8. Outer sides: 5, 1, 3, 2, 2, 3. $P = ?$ _____

9. Two rects: 7×2 and 3×2 . $A = ?$ _____

10. Outer sides: 8, 3, 4, 2, 4, 5. $P = ?$ _____

12. Two rects: 4×4 and 4×2 . $A = ?$

11. Two squares, side 5, side by side. $P = ?$ _____

Study Tips

- ✎ Draw a dashed line on the picture to show how you split the shape into rectangles. Then label each rectangle.
- ✎ For perimeter, trace the outside edge with your finger. Each side gets counted exactly once.
- ✎ Two simple shapes glued together share an inner edge — that edge does *not* count toward perimeter.

Word Problems

1. A room is shaped like an L. One part is 5 ft by 4 ft and the other part is 3 ft by 4 ft. What is the total area of the room?

Answer: _____

2. Sara tiles two rectangular sections of a wall: one 6 in by 2 in and one 6 in by 3 in. What is the total area she tiles?

Answer: _____

Answer Key — with Friendly Explanations**Practice Problems**

1. $3 \times 4 + 3 \times 2 = 12 + 6 = 18.$

 **Answer:** 18

2. $5 \times 2 + 5 \times 3 = 10 + 15 = 25.$

 **Answer:** 25

3. $4 + 2 + 2 + 4 + 6 + 6 = 24.$

 **Answer:** 24

4. Two 4×4 squares: $16 + 16 = 32.$

 **Answer:** 32

5. $3 + 3 + 5 + 2 + 2 + 5 = 20.$

 **Answer:** 20

6. $6 \times 1 + 4 \times 3 = 6 + 12 = 18.$

 **Answer:** 18

7. $2 \times 3 \times 3 = 18.$

 **Answer:** 18

8. $5 + 1 + 3 + 2 + 2 + 3 = 16.$

 **Answer:** 16

9. $7 \times 2 + 3 \times 2 = 14 + 6 = 20.$

 **Answer:** 20

10. $8 + 3 + 4 + 2 + 4 + 5 = 26.$

 **Answer:** 26

11. Combined shape: 5×10 rectangle, $P = 30.$

 **Answer:** 30

12. $4 \times 4 + 4 \times 2 = 16 + 8 = 24.$

 **Answer:** 24**Word Problems**

1. $5 \times 4 + 3 \times 4 = 32$ sq ft.

 **Answer:** 32 *sq ft*

2. $6 \times 2 + 6 \times 3 = 30$ sq in.

 **Answer:** 30 *sq in*

Want a Complete Grade 3 Math Program?

Check Out Our Wisconsin FORWARD Grade 3 Math Bundle!



Wisconsin FORWARD Grade 3 Math Bundle

Practice tests, complete answer keys, and step-by-step explanations
Everything a third grader needs to feel ready!

Tests +
Answer Keys
One Bundle

Find it online:

<https://www.effortlessmath.com/product/wisconsin-forward-exam-grade-3-math-made-ridiculously-simple>

Important: This bundle combines the practice and the explanations into one easy-to-print package designed for Grade 3 students. **Made for parents, teachers, and tutors who want everything in one place.**

Full Practice Tests

- ✓ Complete FORWARD-style practice tests
- ✓ Mirrors the real exam format and difficulty
- ✓ Builds test-taking confidence
- ✓ Aligned with state Grade 3 math standards

Start with a full-length practice test!

Step-by-Step Answer Keys

- ✓ Every question worked out, not just an answer
- ✓ Friendly, third-grade-ready explanations
- ✓ Catches and explains common misconceptions
- ✓ Parents can help even without a math background

Learn from every mistake!

Single-Skill Worksheets

- ✓ Targets one Grade 3 math skill per page
- ✓ Covers place value, multiplication, fractions, measurement, geometry
- ✓ Includes a Quick Review + Practice + Word Problems
- ✓ Built-in friendly Answer Key for self-checking

Master one skill at a time!