

## Understanding Area

Area is the amount of flat space a shape covers, measured in *square units*. Count the square tiles that fit inside the shape and you have the area.

### Key Concepts

- 1. Area** is the number of square units that fit inside a flat shape without overlapping.
- For a rectangle, area = number of rows  $\times$  number of columns of unit squares. (That's where the formula length  $\times$  width comes from!)
- For an irregular shape, just count the unit squares inside.
- Area is always reported in *square units*: square inches, square feet, square centimeters, etc.


### Worked Examples

① A rectangle is covered by 4 rows of 6 unit squares. What is its area?

 Multiply rows by columns:  $4 \times 6 = 24$ . So the area is 24 square units.


 **Answer:** 24 square units

② An L-shaped figure is made of 8 unit squares. What is its area?

 Just count: 8 unit squares means an area of 8 square units. (Irregular shapes don't need multiplication — counting works.)

 **Answer:** 8 square units

③ A square has 3 rows and 3 columns of unit squares. What is its area?

 Multiply:  $3 \times 3 = 9$ . The square covers 9 square units.

 **Answer:** 9 square units

### Practice Problems

Find the area in square units.

1. 2 rows  $\times$  5 columns = ? sq units

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2. 4 rows  $\times$  4 columns = ? sq units

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3. 3 rows  $\times$  7 columns = ? sq units

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4. 1 row  $\times$  9 columns = ? sq units

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5. 6 rows  $\times$  3 columns = ? sq units

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6. 5 rows  $\times$  5 columns = ? sq units

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7. 2 rows  $\times$  8 columns = ? sq units

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8. 7 rows  $\times$  4 columns = ? sq units

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9. 3 rows  $\times$  3 columns = ? sq units

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10. 6 rows  $\times$  6 columns = ? sq units

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11. 4 rows  $\times$  9 columns = ? sq units

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12. 8 rows  $\times$  5 columns = ? sq units

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**Study Tips**

- ✎ For a rectangle, “rows  $\times$  columns” is the same as “length  $\times$  width.” Both give the area.
- ✎ Always include the unit: “12 square units,” not just “12.”
- ✎ For irregular shapes, count the unit squares one at a time. Make a mark in each one so you don’t double-count.

**Word Problems**

1. Lily covers a tabletop with 5 rows of 7 sticky notes. What is the area of the table in sticky-note units?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

2. A garden bed is made of 24 square tiles arranged in 4 equal rows. How many tiles are in each row?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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

1.  $2 \times 5 = 10$ .

 **Answer:** 10 sq units

2.  $4 \times 4 = 16$ .

 **Answer:** 16 sq units

3.  $3 \times 7 = 21$ .

 **Answer:** 21 sq units

4.  $1 \times 9 = 9$ .

 **Answer:** 9 sq units

5.  $6 \times 3 = 18$ .

 **Answer:** 18 sq units

6.  $5 \times 5 = 25$ .

 **Answer:** 25 sq units

7.  $2 \times 8 = 16$ .

 **Answer:** 16 sq units

8.  $7 \times 4 = 28$ .

 **Answer:** 28 sq units

9.  $3 \times 3 = 9$ .

 **Answer:** 9 sq units

10.  $6 \times 6 = 36$ .

 **Answer:** 36 sq units

11.  $4 \times 9 = 36$ .

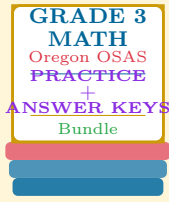
 **Answer:** 36 sq units

12.  $8 \times 5 = 40$ .

 **Answer:** 40 sq units**Word Problems**1.  $5 \times 7 = 35$  sticky notes cover the tabletop. **Answer:** 35 sq units2.  $24 \div 4 = 6$  tiles per row. **Answer:** 6 tiles

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