Areas of Common Shapes

Triangle:  A three sided figure.



Rectangle:  A quadrilateral with four right angles.



Parallelogram:  A quadrilateral with two pairs of opposite sides parallel.



Trapezoid:  A quadrilateral with exactly one pair of opposite sides parallel.



Circle:  A set of points all equidistant from a given point - the center.



Any Regular Polygon:  A figure with all sides and angles congruent.



*(p = perimeter)*

Area and Perimeter of Irregular Shapes

To find the area and perimeter of irregular shapes, the first thing to do is to divide the irregular shape into regular shapes that you can recognize such as triangles, rectangles, circles, squares and so forth...

Example—Find the area of this shape:



This can be done in two different ways:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Method #1** | **Method #2** |
| Divide the figure into two rectangles and find all missing lengths. http://www.shmoop.com/images/prealgebra/unit4/pa.4.3101.pngThe larger rectangle has an area of  4 cm x 7 cm = 28 cm²The smaller rectangle has an area of  4 cm x 2 cm = 8 cm²If we combine these we will find the total area:  28 cm² + 8 cm² = **36 cm²** | Draw two lines to make the figure into one large rectangle.http://www.shmoop.com/images/prealgebra/unit4/pa.4.3105.pngThe area of the large rectangle is  7 cm x 6 cm = 42 cm²However, a 2 cm x 3 cm rectangle is not included in our original figure, so we need to take out the area of the white rectangle (2 cm x 3 cm = 6 cm²) 42 cm² - 6 cm² = **36 cm²** |

Example #2—Find the perimeter of this shape:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 3- 2 -4 -6 irregular shape | Wait, some sides are missing! No problem, we can fill those by adding together or subtracting the opposite sides. PolygonNow find the sum of all sides: 6 + 4 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 7 = 26 cm |

Last Example—Find the area of this shape:



The figure above has three regular shapes. Starting from top to bottom, it has a triangle, a rectangle, and a trapezoid. Find the area for each of those three shapes and add the results

Area of the Triangle = ½ bh = ½ 3 x 4 = 6

Area of the Rectangle = length x width = 3 x 10 = 30

Area of the Trapezoid = ½ (b1 + b2) x h = ½ (3 + 5) x 2 = 8

Total area = 6 + 30 + 8 = 44 square units