

Lesson 1: What is Area?

Standards Alignments

Addressing 3.MD.C.5, 3.OA.A.1

Building Towards 3.MD.C.5

Teacher-facing Learning Goals

- Describe the relative size of plane figures in their own language.

Student-facing Learning Goals

- Let's compare the size of shapes.

Lesson Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is for students to recognize that different shapes cover different amounts of space.

In grade 2, students estimated, measured, and compared lengths using standard units. They learned how the length of the unit affects measurements.

This lesson introduces the concept of area as students compare the size of different shapes. Students consider what it means for two-dimensional shapes to be larger or cover more space. They measure and describe relative area with increasing precision as they participate in the activities in this lesson.

Give students access to pattern blocks and scissors during the cool-down.

Access for:

Students with Disabilities

- Action and Expression (Activity 2)

English Learners

- MLR8 (Activity 2)

Instructional Routines

How Many Do You See? (Warm-up)

Materials to Gather

- Pattern blocks: Activity 2
- Scissors: Activity 1, Activity 2

Materials to Copy

- Pattern Blocks to Compare Shapes (groups of 1): Activity 2

Lesson Timeline

Warm-up	10 min
Activity 1	15 min
Activity 2	20 min
Lesson Synthesis	10 min
Cool-down	5 min

Teacher Reflection Question

What part of the lesson went really well today in terms of students learning? What did you do that made that part go well?

Cool-down (to be completed at the end of the lesson)

🕒 5 min

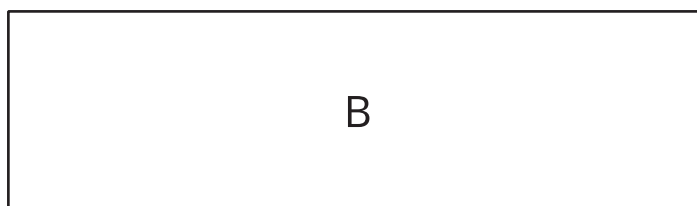
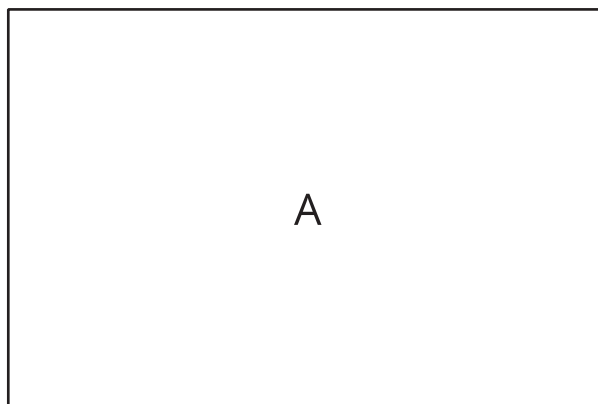
Compare Area

Standards Alignments

Addressing 3.MD.C.5

Student-facing Task Statement

Which rectangle has the greater area? How do you know?



Student Responses

Sample response: Figure A covers more space. Even if you cut Figure B in half it would fit in Figure A with leftover space.