Counting Unit Squares for Area

Explore ideas and representations

Name _____ **Date** _____ **Score** _____ / 6

QUICK REVIEW

Count each covered unit square exactly once. Add the number of squares in each row or in each column; either method gives the same total. Each square counts as 1 square unit. Do not count empty spaces in a surrounding rectangle.

Worked example

Find the area. Show a row-by-row count of the unit squares.



Each square: 1 sq unit

1. The row counts from bottom to top are $3, 3, 2$.

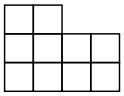
2. Add them: $3 + 3 + 2 = 8$ square units.

Answer: 8 square units.

Practice Problems

Show your thinking.

1. Find the area. Show a row-by-row count of the unit squares.



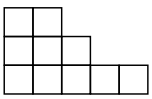
Each square: 1 sq unit

2. Count by columns, not rows, to find the area.



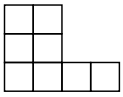
Each square: 1 sq unit

3. Find the area. Show a row-by-row count of the unit squares.



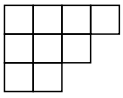
Each square: 1 sq unit

4. A student multiplies $4 \times 3 = 12$ and calls it this figure's area. Correct the count.

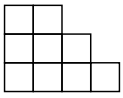


Each square: 1 sq unit

5. These two shapes use unit squares. Which has greater area, or are their areas equal?

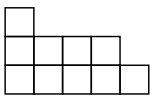


Each square: 1 sq unit



Each square: 1 sq unit

6. Count by columns, not rows, to find the area.



Each square: 1 sq unit

Answer Key

1. 10 square units.
2. 7 square units.
3. 10 square units.
4. 8 square units.
5. Equal; each has area 9 square units.
6. 10 square units.

Step-by-Step Solutions

Follow each calculation, then check your own work.

Problem 1

1. The row counts from bottom to top are $4, 4, 2$.
2. Add them: $4 + 4 + 2 = 10$ square units.

Problem 2

1. The column counts from left to right are $3, 2, 2$.
2. Add the columns: $3 + 2 + 2 = 7$ square units.

Problem 3

1. The row counts from bottom to top are $5, 3, 2$.
2. Add them: $5 + 3 + 2 = 10$ square units.

Problem 4

1. That product counts a full rectangle with 12 cells, including 4 cells missing from this shape.
2. Count only existing squares: $4 + 2 + 2 = 8$, or $12 - 4 = 8$.

Problem 5

1. First shape: $2 + 3 + 4 = 9$ squares.
2. Second shape: $4 + 3 + 2 = 9$ squares. Reordering rows did not change the number of squares.

Problem 6

1. The column counts from left to right are $3, 2, 2, 2, 1$.
2. Add the columns: $3 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 1 = 10$ square units.

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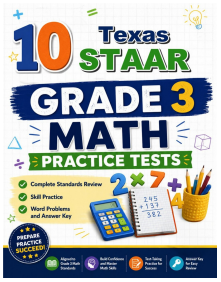

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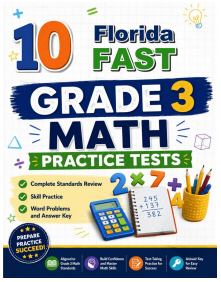

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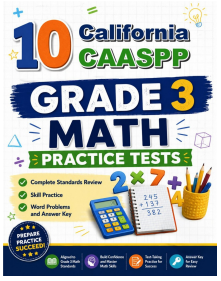

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