Year 4 - Length, Perimeter and Area

Key vocabulary
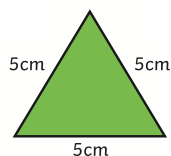
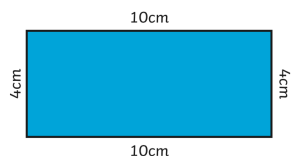|	
Area	Perimeter
Length	Unit
Measure	Convert

Perimeter

To find the perimeter of any shape with straight sides, simply **add together the length of all the sides**.
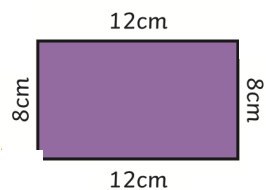
12cm
8cm
8cm
12cm

The perimeter of this rectangle is:
12cm + 12cm + 8cm + 8cm = 40cm

5cm   5cm
5cm

The **perimeter** of this triangle is:
5cm + 5cm + 5cm = 15cm

10cm
4cm
4cm
10cm

Rectangles and parallelograms have two pairs of equal parallel sides, so you could also work it out like this:
multiply 10cm by 2 and 4cm by 2 and add the totals together:
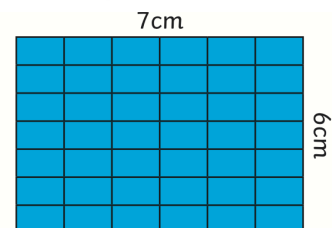10 × 2 = 20 and 4 × 2 = 8 so 20 + 8 = 28cm
or
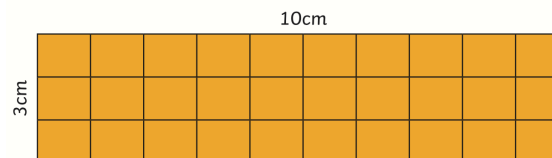add 10cm and 4cm then multiply by 2:
10 + 4 = 14 ⟶ 14 × 2 = 28cm

Area

Area is the amount of space taken up by a 2D shape or surface.

Area is measured in square units.
squared centimetres (**cm²**)
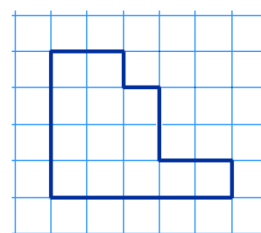squared metres (**m²**)
squared kilometres (**km²**)

7cm
6cm

The **area**:
10cm × 3cm = 30cm²

10cm
3cm

The **area**:
7cm × 6cm = 42cm²

We can use our knowledge of area to make rectilinear shapes using a given number of squares. For example, you can make many different shapes that all have an area of 5cm².

Perimeter and Area by counting squares

To find the area of an irregular shape, you would count all the squares inside the shape.

To find the perimeter, you would count all the squares around the edge.