

Year 4 Area and Perimeter: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to learning area and perimeter can help you support your child's learning at home. Each subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring whether your child is learning is just learning to measure the distance around simple shapes or whether they're already starting to calculate areas in square centimetres, there'll be a step in this guide that's right for your child's stage of learning.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

Area and Perimeter

What Do Children Learn about Area and Perimeter in Year 4?

The topic of area and perimeter is a lovely area of maths because you can explore it practically with children. In year 3, children are likely to have been taught how to measure the perimeter of simple 2D shapes. This skill will be developed throughout year 4. It is a good idea to have access to a simple ruler, marked only in centimetres, to start measuring activities, as children can often find rulers marked with mm over-complicated. Children are not usually introduced to the concept of area until year 4.

What Is Perimeter?

Perimeter is the distance all the way round a shape or object. If you were buying a fence to enclose a garden, or a belt to go around someone's waist, then perimeter is an important measurement to know.

What Units Is Perimeter Measured In?

Since perimeter is a distance, it is measured in units of length. Most activities will measure in centimetres (cm) when presented on worksheets and children will be expected to become increasingly accurate as they move through the rest of primary school. Measuring the perimeter of a garden or school playground can easily be done in metres (m). The perimeter of a town or city would be measured in kilometres (km).

What Is a Circumference?

Circumference is a word that describes the perimeter of circular shapes only. For all other shapes, the word 'perimeter' is used.

How Long Is a Piece of String?

Try measuring the perimeter of objects around the house. All you need is a long ruler and a ball of string. Start with smaller objects, such as the distance around an orange or a tin of beans and move on to furniture or more complex objects (if you've got enough string!).

Area in the Kitchen

Try to challenge each other to think of as many situations as possible in your kitchen where area is important. How much foil you need for a chicken, how much icing covers a cake and the amount of pastry needed to cover the surface of a pie dish are just three examples to get you started!

Pace It Out

Take opportunities during your daily outdoor time to pace around different areas with your child (for example, at the park or in the garden) and estimate their perimeter. Two paces will be approximately one metre.



Step 1

Perimeter of Squares and Rectangles

This activity sheet pack starts with questions on a centimetre grid, so your child can count the number of cm all around the object and use the method on the sheet, checking that both answers match. As your child moves through the activities, the grid will disappear and rely on accurate measurement. Don't forget to print all the perimeter activities at 100%, otherwise the answers won't be right.

Perimeter of Rectilinear Shapes

In reality, many shapes aren't just rectangles or squares. Rooms in houses, for example, may be L-shaped, a combination of two rectangles. This activity pack can help develop your child's skills from the basic shapes of Step 1 into more complex shapes. The method of working out perimeter by adding together all the separate lengths around the shape still works. To start supporting your child use the colourful presentation and work through at a pace your child finds comfortable. Then, dig deep into the topic of perimeter with the colourful activity sheets.

Step 2

Step 3

Measuring Area by Counting Squares

The area of a shape is the total surface that it covers. If a shape is marked out in centimetre squares, just counting the number of squares gives an answer in cm^2 . This method works for all shapes and is most accurate for shapes with straight sides and right-angled corners. The letter shapes in this activity are ideal to practise counting area in cm^2 .

Developing Skills in Area

This varied activity pack builds and deepens your child's understanding of area. It consolidates work done in Step 3 on counting by working from the basics (on the one-star sheet) through to more accurate activities on the three-star version. Be sure to monitor your child's progress and don't get them to work through every level in one sitting; always give feedback before moving on to the next level.

Step 4

Explore and Discover More

Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



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Go!



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Book Club

Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!



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Boost

Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



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imagine

Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.



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ORIGINALS

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire pupils from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



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KIDS' TV

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!