How Much Space?

Understanding area in Grade 3 math



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BIG IDEA

Area shows how much flat space a shape covers.





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Shapes have area



Book cover

The flat front covers some space.



Rug

The rug covers floor space.



Paper

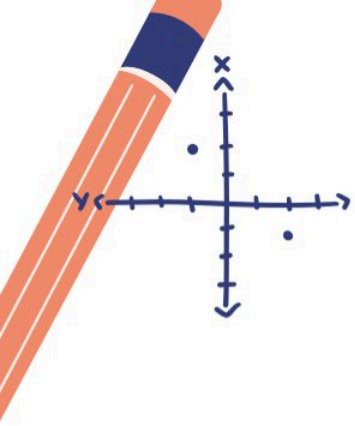
The paper covers desk space.



Picture

Each flat shape has area.

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Key words

area

how much flat space inside a shape

plane figure

a flat shape, like a rectangle

square unit

a tiny tile with four equal sides we count with

cover

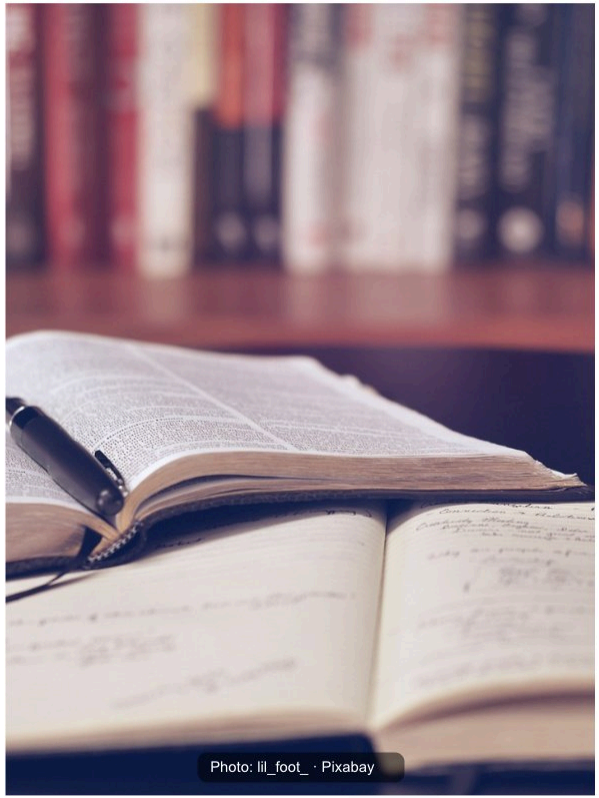
to lay over with no gaps or overlaps



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Think, pair, share

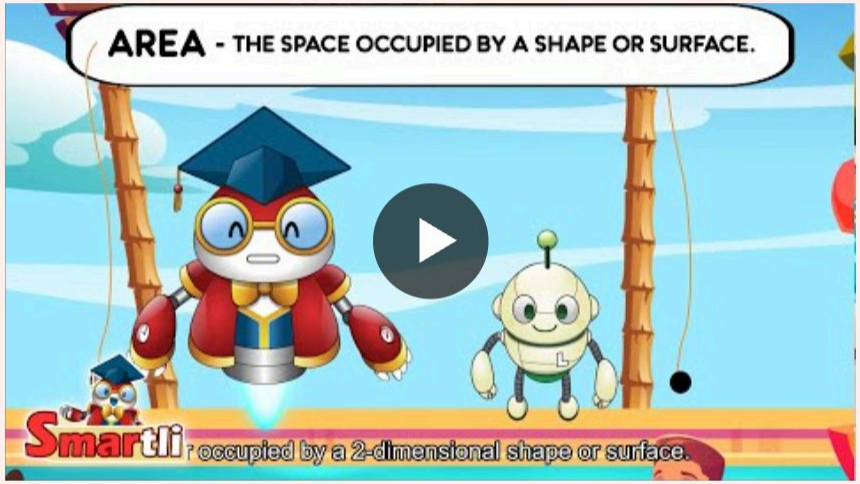
Which has more area: your desk top or your math book? How can you tell?





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Area means covering



▶ 0:00 – 4:52

- Watch how squares cover a shape.
- Listen for why we count squares.

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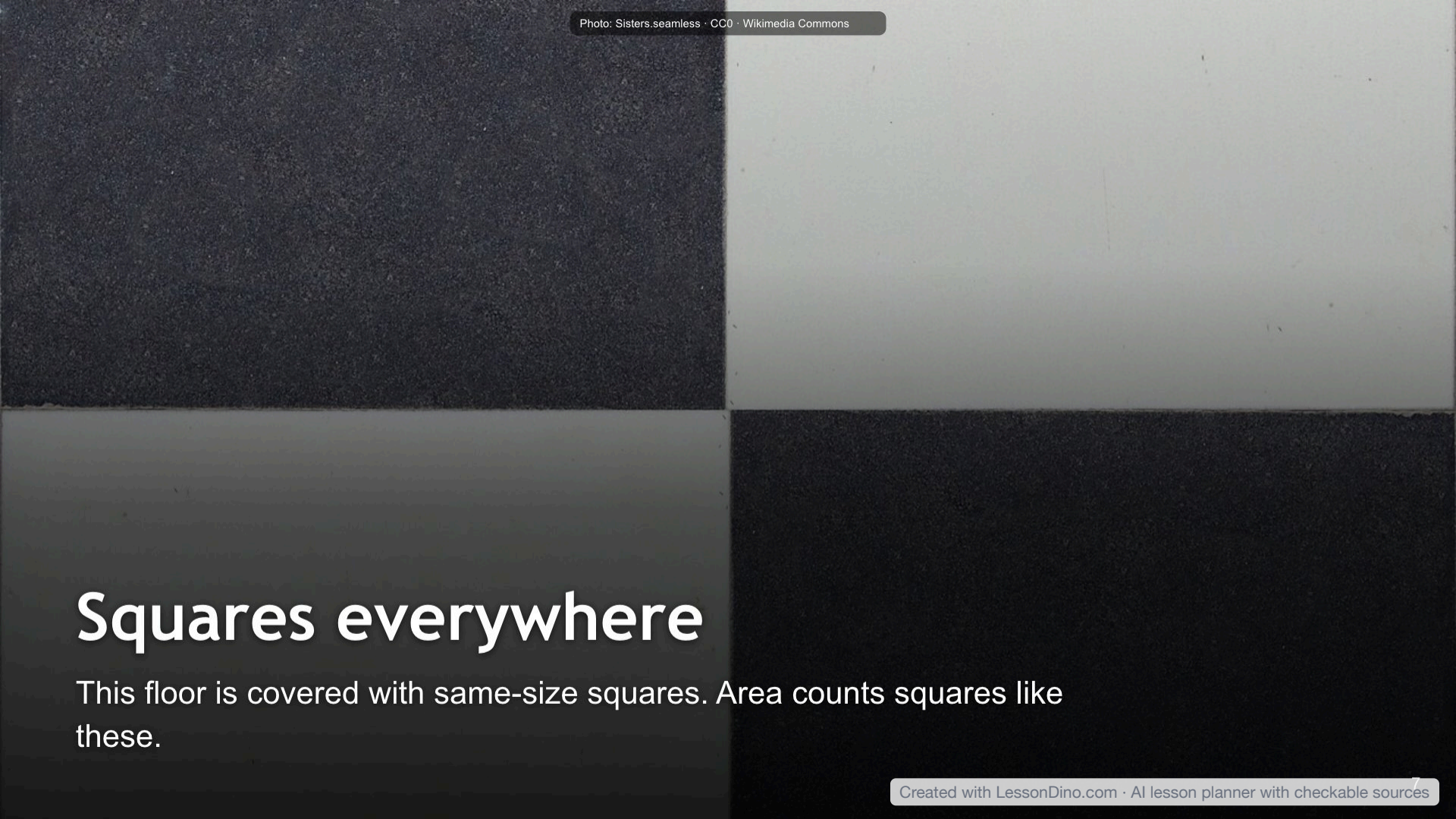


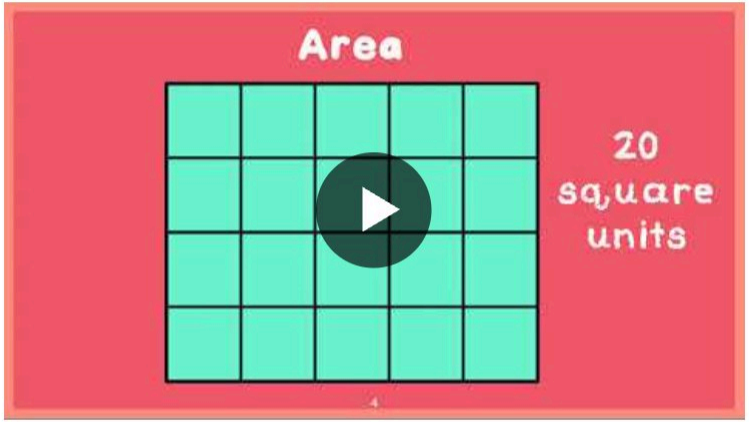
Photo: Sisters.seamless · CC0 · Wikimedia Commons

Squares everywhere

This floor is covered with same-size squares. Area counts squares like these.

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Count the tiles



▶ 0:00 – 3:19

- Watch for gaps and overlaps.
- Count how tiles fill the rectangle.

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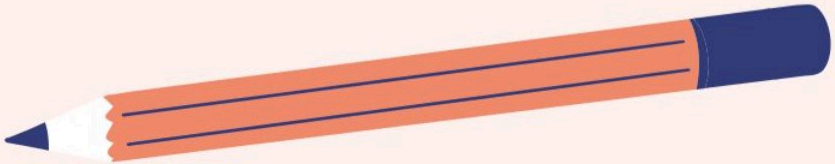
Your task

In pairs, cover two paper rectangles with same-size squares and compare.

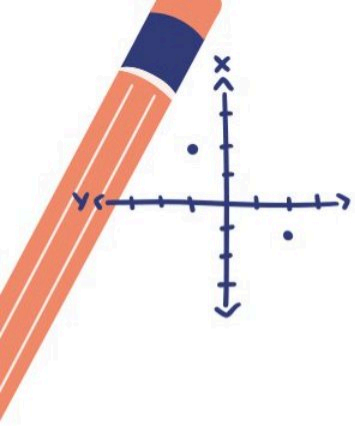
1. Cover each rectangle with squares, no gaps or overlaps.
2. Count squares to find each area.
3. Tell which area is bigger and why.

10 min

In pairs



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Fair area rules

1

Same size

Use same-size squares every time.

🚫

No gaps

Push squares together with no spaces.

📚

No overlaps

Do not stack squares on each other.

🔢

Count all

Count every square to get area.

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Pick a unit

Which square would you use to measure our classroom rug?

- **A** Tiny postage-stamp squares
- **B** Sticky-note squares
- **C** Big floor-tile squares



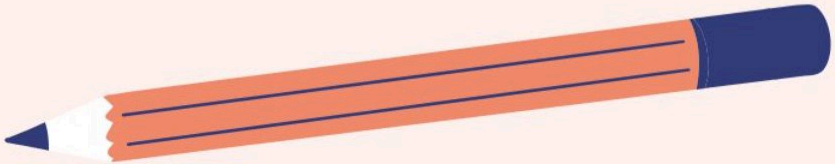
Vote with your hands, then explain why.

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Quick quiz

1. What does area tell us?
2. What do we count to find area?
3. A rectangle holds 3 rows of 4 squares. What is its area?



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