Lesson 2: How Do We Measure Area?

Standards Alignments

Addressing	3.MD.C.5, 3.MD.C.5.a, 3.MD.C.5.b
Building Towards	3.MD.C.5

Teacher-facing Learning Goals

- Explore area by building shapes with unit squares.
- Use unit squares to measure area.

Student-facing Learning Goals

- Let's use square tiles to measure area.

Lesson Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is for students to use square tiles to build shapes and measure area.

Previously, students compared the area of shapes informally—by cutting out and overlaying the shapes, by observing whether one shape would fit into another, and by covering the shapes with pattern blocks and comparing the number of blocks used.

In this lesson, students learn that squares can be used to measure area: by tiling all of the shape. Each square represents one unit of area, or one square unit. Inch tiles are used, but are referred to as "square tiles" with students to emphasize how the tiles are used to measure square units. Students learn that shapes that don't have specific names can be referred to as "figures."

In the next lesson, students will take a closer look at square tiles that overlap.

Provide inch tiles for students to use during the cool-down.

Access for:

Students with Disabilities

- Engagement (Activity 2)

Instructional Routines

Which One Doesn't Belong? (Warm-up)

Materials to Gather

- Inch tiles: Activity 1, Activity 2

Materials to Copy

- Use Square Tiles to Measure Area (groups of 2): Activity 2

Lesson Timeline

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

Teacher Reflection Question

What ideas and experiences do students have about area? How did they influence students' work?

Cool-down (to be completed at the end of the lesson) 5 min

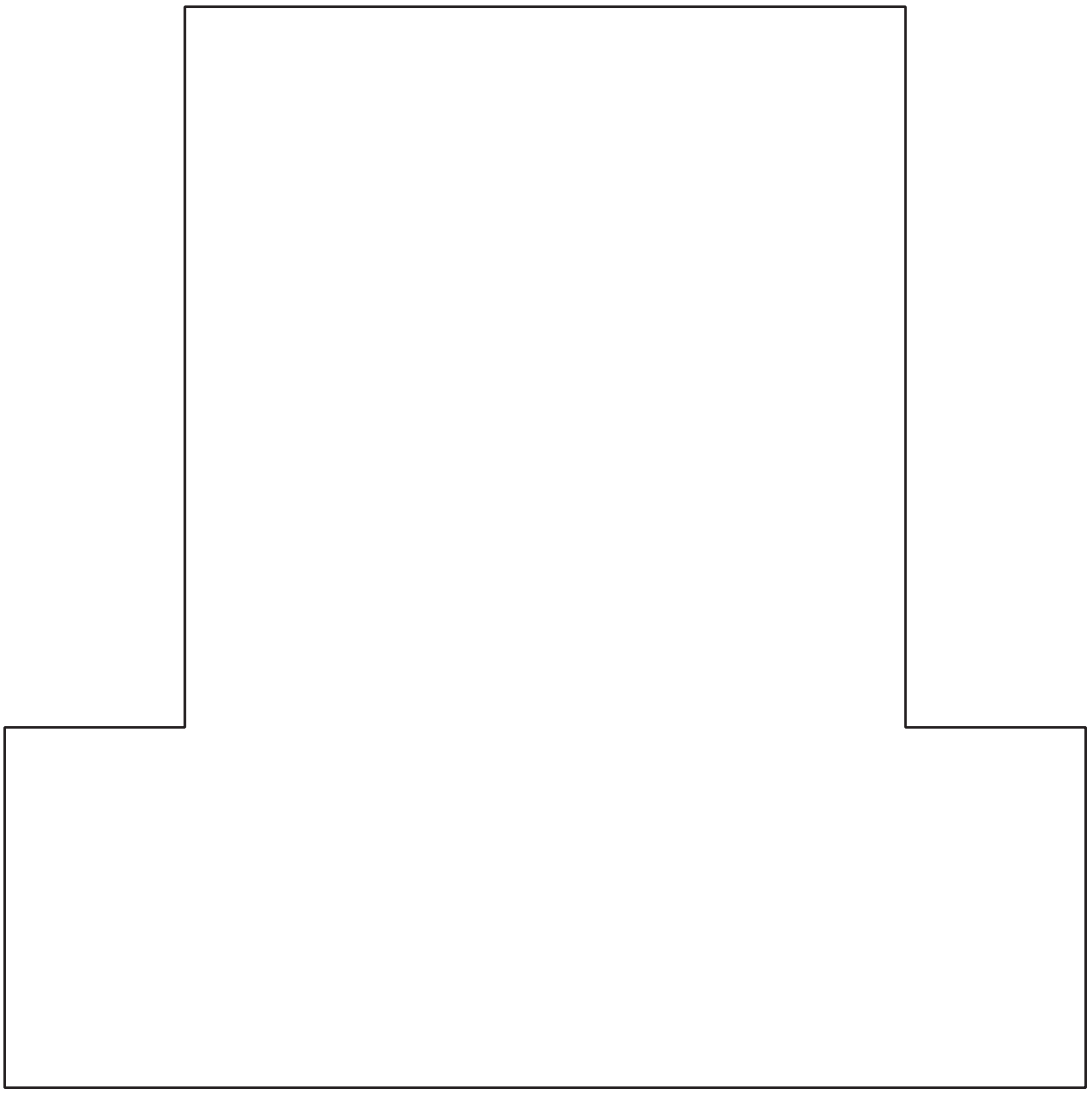
Tile and Tell

Standards Alignments

Addressing 3.MD.C.5

Student-facing Task Statement

Use square tiles to find the area of the figure.



Number of square tiles used: _____ square tiles

Area: _____ square units

Student Responses

28 square tiles
28 square units