

Area Units

Comparing Rectangles

In this lesson students will compare three rectangles to determine which one covers the most space.

You will need:

- Enough rectangles for pairs of students to use (make each size a different color):
 - One 12 x 1 in rectangle- have students label it A
 - One 4 x 3 rectangle – have students label it B
 - One 2 x 6 rectangle – have students label it C
- Chart paper
- 1 in tiles (12 per student)

- Tell students that you are wrapping a present and you need the piece of paper that will cover the most space. Show them the three rectangles and have them make a hypothesis about which rectangle is the largest.

- Then put students in pairs and have them work together to determine which rectangle would cover the most space. Tell them they cannot cut the paper, but they can fold it or write on it.

- Have them order them in order (they all cover the same amount of space) on the chart paper.
- Choose pairs to share their strategies for how they compared the rectangles.
- Have them compare how different ways of folding or partitioning the rectangles led to different units.

- Once you have determined that all the rectangles cover the same amount of space, give each student 12 one-inch tiles. Ask students to find at least 5 different ways the same amount of space can be covered. For each way, have them record the perimeter and the area of each. Ask: Which has the least perimeter? The most? Why?

- Give formative assessment.