Chapter 13

School-Home Letter

Dear Family,

During the next few weeks, our math class will be learning about perimeter and area. We will explore the concept that area is a measure of how many square units cover a flat surface. We will also learn the formula for finding the area of a rectangle.

You can expect to see homework that provides practice with finding perimeters and areas of rectangles, and areas of combined rectangles.

Here is a sample of how your child will be taught to use a formula to find the area of a rectangle.

Vocabulary

area The number of square units needed to cover a flat surface

base, *b* A polygon's side

formula A set of symbols that expresses a mathematical rule

height, *h* The length of a perpendicular from the base to the top of a two-dimensional figure

perimeter The distance around a figure

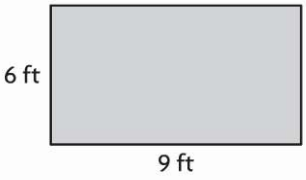
square unit A unit of area with dimensions of 1 unit × 1 unit

MODEL Use a Formula to Find Area

This is how we will use a formula to find the area of a rectangle.

STEP 1

Identify the base and the height of the rectangle.



base = 9 feet

height = 6 feet

STEP 2

Use the formula
$A = b \times h$
to find the area of the rectangle.

$A = 9 \times 6$
$= 54$

The area is 54 square feet.

Tips

Remember that any side of a rectangle could be the base. Depending upon the side labeled as the base, the perpendicular side to that base is the height. In the model, the base could have been identified as 6 feet and the height as 9 feet. Because of the Commutative Property of Multiplication, the area does not change.

Appropriate Units

Remember to use the correct *square* units when expressing the area of a shape. A measure of 54 feet would simply be a measure of length, whereas a measure of 54 *square* feet is a measure of area.