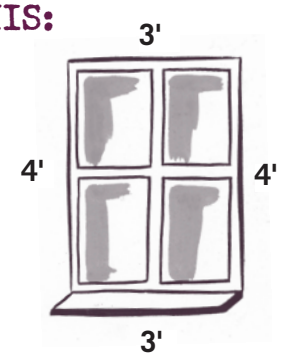
Getting Around Perimeter

If **all-star pitcher Al Leiter** hits a home run, he has to run all the bases — from home plate to first, second, third and back to home — around the **perimeter** (purr-IM-it-ter) of the baseball diamond.

There are many other perimeters you'll run across in sports — and in life. When you place weather stripping around a window, you're fitting the strips around the **perimeter** of the window. When you make a simple drawing of a house for your child, you're drawing the **perimeter** of the house — its outline or outer boundary.

Perimeter is a *measurement* of the distance *around* something. To measure the actual distance around something — its perimeter — you simply add up all the sides. Here's how:

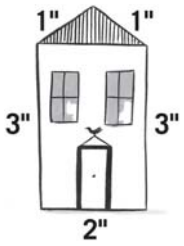
TRY THIS:



This window's shape is a rectangle. To find the perimeter, or the distance around the window's **outer edge**, start with any side and work your way around the window until all four sides have been added up.

Perimeter = ____ + ____ + ____ + ____
(side) (side) (side) (side)

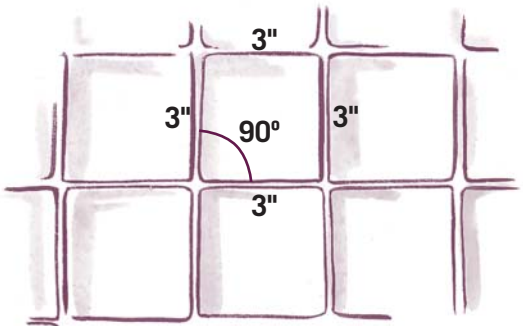
Answer: _____



What's the perimeter of the house that's drawn? Start with any side and work your way all around, adding each side as you go.

Perimeter = ____ + ____ + ____ + ____ + ____
(side) (side) (side) (side) (side)

Answer: _____



Some objects, the tiles of a bathroom floor for instance, have sides that are at right angles to each other just like the rectangle. But, unlike the rectangle, all the sides are the same length. This shape is called a square. What's the perimeter of the square tile, or the distance around its outer edge? You know what to do!

Perimeter = ____ + ____ + ____ + ____
(side) (side) (side) (side)

Answer: _____

tips

Knowing about perimeter is important if you need to:

- place baseboard around a room
- put a frame around a picture
- fence in a garden or a backyard

Try This: (window) 4 + 3 + 4 + 3 = 14 feet
(house) 2 + 3 + 1 + 1 + 3 = 10 inches
(tile) 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 = 12 inches

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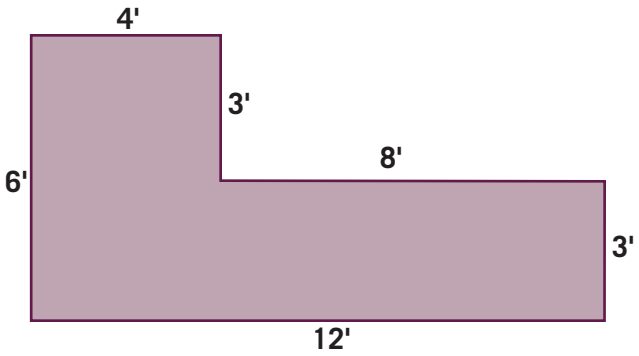
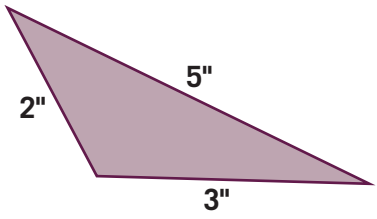
1. Find the perimeter (P) of this floor plan by adding the sides (s) of this storage shed:



P = s + s + s + s + s + s

_____

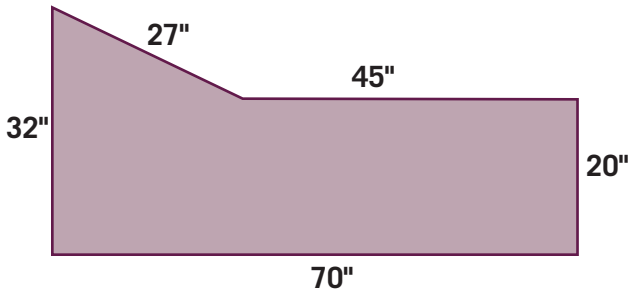
2. Find the perimeter of this triangle:



P = s + s + s

_____

3. Find the perimeter of this figure:

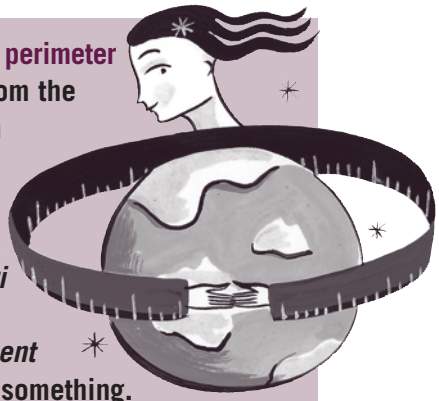


P = s + s + s + s + s

_____

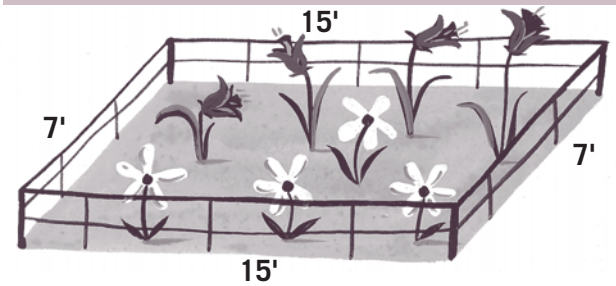
Did you know?

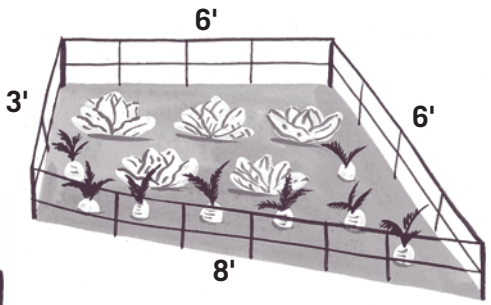
The word perimeter comes from the Greek word *peri*, which means around, and another Greek word, *metron*, which means measure. Together, *peri* and *metron* give us perimeter, a *measurement* of the distance *around* something.



PLEASE HELP THIS GARDEN GROW!

Here is a garden with vegetable and flower beds. Each bed needs to be fenced in to keep animals from eating the plants. How much fencing will be needed to fit around all three beds?





daisy and daffodil bed:

_____

lettuce and carrot bed:

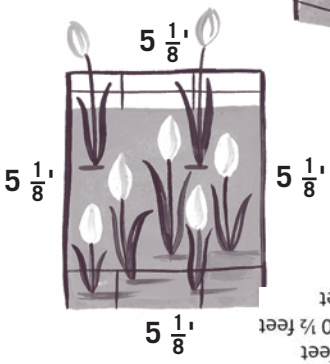
_____

tulip bed:

_____

TOTAL AMOUNT OF FENCING:

_____



Garden:
daisy & daffodil bed: 7 + 15 + 7 + 15 = 44 feet
lettuce and carrot bed: 3 + 6 + 8 + 6 = 23 feet
tulip bed: 5 1/8 + 5 1/8 + 5 1/8 + 5 1/8 = 20 1/2 feet
total fencing: 44 + 23 + 20 1/2 = 87 1/2 feet

1. 12 + 3 + 8 + 3 + 4 + 6 = 36 feet
2. 2 + 3 + 5 = 10 inches
3. 70 + 32 + 27 + 45 + 20 = 194 inches

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