

Year 3 Area and Perimeter: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation of learning about perimeter in year 3 can help you support your child's learning at home. Each subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring area and perimeter. Whether your child is just learning to measure the distance around simple shapes or they're already starting to calculate with numbers, there'll be a step in this guide that's right for your child's stage of learning.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

Area and Perimeter

What Does the English National Curriculum Say about Area and Perimeter in Year 3?

The topic of area and perimeter is a lovely area of maths because you can explore it practically with children. In year 3, children are likely to be taught how to measure the perimeter of simple 2D shapes. It is a good idea to have access to a simple ruler marked only in centimetres to start measuring activities as children in year 3 often find rulers marked with millimetres overcomplicated. Children are not usually introduced to the concept of area until year 4.

What Is Perimeter?

Perimeter is the distance all the way around a shape or object. If you are buying a fence to enclose a garden or a playground, then perimeter is an important measurement to know.

Which Units Is Perimeter Measured In?

Since perimeter is a distance, it is measured in units of length. Most children's activities will measure in centimetres (cm) when presented on worksheets and children will be expected to become increasingly accurate as they move through the rest of primary school. Measuring the perimeter of a garden or school playground can easily be done in metres (m). The perimeter of a town or city would be measured in kilometres (km).

What Is Circumference?

Circumference is a word that describes the perimeter of circular shapes only. For all other shapes, the word 'perimeter' is used in English primary schools.



Pace It Out

Take opportunities during your daily outdoor time to pace around different areas with your child (for example, at the park or in the garden) and estimate their perimeter. Two paces will be approximately one metre.

How Long Is a Piece of String?

Ask your child to draw a range of shapes on large pieces of paper. (Alternatively, they could use chalk on the ground outside.) They lay string around each shape and then measure the length of each piece of string - using a ruler or tape measure - to find the perimeter of each shape. As an extra challenge, you could ask your child to estimate, before measuring, which shape has the largest or smallest perimeter.



Step 1

Measuring the Length of Lines

Your child is likely to have begun working with rulers during infant work. However, it is still a skill which demands a lot of lower junior children. As a simple start to this topic, remind your child how to draw lines, measuring them accurately. Children often need to be reminded that it is easier to draw lines horizontally, rather than vertically. Children should also be taught to spread out their fingers wide across a ruler to prevent it tilting, being sure to keep the tips of their fingers in the middle of the ruler to avoid 'finger bumps' in the middle of 'straight' lines.



Measuring Perimeter in Centimetres (cm)

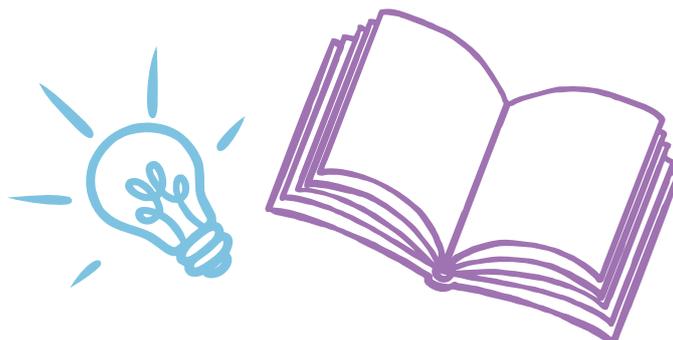
Practise measuring lines with your child and then make a start on the one-star sheet from this pack. If your child manages the first sheet well, talk about how a square's perimeter can be calculated by measuring one side, then multiplying by 4 or a rectangle by measuring the length and doubling, the width and doubling and adding those two values together. If your child's times tables are not yet secure, allow them to keep adding all sides together as separate measurements. Move on to the two-star and three-star activities once confidence has been gained.

Step 2

Step 3

More Accurate Perimeters

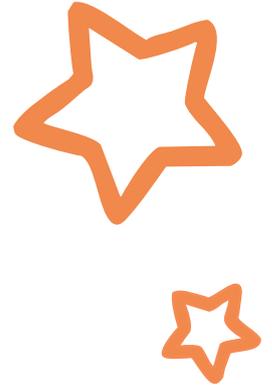
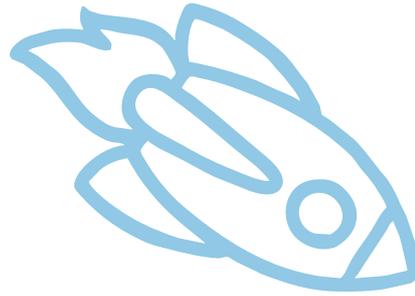
Use this helpful set of activity sheets to build on your child's measurement accuracy. The first one-star sheet allows your child to work in whole centimetres when working out the perimeter of shapes. Each sheet after that requires greater accuracy, so be sure to check your child's ruler allows measurement to this degree of accuracy. To complete the tougher three-star activities, your child will need a ruler that measures in millimetres.



Step 4

Perimeter Problems

The new version of England's national curriculum requires pupils to solve problems and use mathematical reasoning throughout the junior school years. These word problems give a practical context to perimeter work for year 3 children. Each word problem has a diagram alongside it so that your child is supported in interpreting the words in each problem. If your child finds reading tricky, be sure to read along with them so they can focus on the maths skills.



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Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



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Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.



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Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire children from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



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Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!