Learning Centre

Finding Areas of Shapes

Bakers often need to know the area of a shape in order to plan their work. A few formulas are required to find area.

First, some vocabulary:

Diameter	The distance from one edge of a circle to the other, passing through the center		
Radius	The distance from the centre of a circle to the outside edge		
Circumference	The length of the outside edge of a circle	\bigcirc	
Area	The total of the inside of a shape		
Length	The longest side of a rectangle		
Width	The shortest side of a rectangle		
Perimeter	The distance around the outside edge of a rectangle or triangle		
Height	The distance from the base to the highest point of a triangle		
Base	The bottom edge of a triangle		





The formulas:

	Area of a circle	$A = 3.14 \times radius \times radius$
\bigcirc	Circumference of a circle	$C = 3.14 \times diameter$
	Area of a rectangle	$A = length \times width$
	Perimeter of a rectangle	P = length + length + width + width
	Area of a triangle	$A = \frac{1}{2} \times base \times height$
\square	Perimeter of a triangle	P = side + side + side

Example 1: Find the area of a circle with a diameter of 5.45 cm.

Answer:	First, choose the correct formula.	$A = 3.14 \times radius \times radius$
	Convert the diameter to radius.	
	$diameter = 2 \times radius$ $radius = \frac{diameter}{2}$	$radius = \frac{5.45}{2} = 2.725 \text{ cm}$
	Plug the radius into the formula for area and solve.	$A = 3.14 \times 2.725 cm \times 2.725 cm$ $A = 23.32 cm^{2}$

Example 2: Tara is making a multi-tier wedding cake. She plans to edge each tier of the cake stand with ribbon. If she uses cake stands with diameters of 14, 11, 8 and 5 inches, how much ribbon should she buy?

Answer. First, identify which formula to use. The question is asking about the outside edge of the cake stands.		
	The outside edge is the circumference.	$C = 3.14 \times diameter$



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Plug the diameter into the formula, and find the circumference of each tier.	$C = 3.14 \times 14$ in C = 43.96 in
	$C = 3.14 \times 11$ in
	C = 34.54 in
	$C = 3.14 \times 8$ in
	C = 25.12 in
	$C = 3.14 \times 5$ in
	C = 15.70 in
Add the circumferences for the tiers	43.96 in + 34.54 in
together to find the total length of	+ 25.12 in + 15.70 in
ribbon needed.	= 119.32 in

Example 3: Veronica is going to make brownies. The recipe that she wants to use calls for a $8in \times 8in$ pan, but all she has is a $9in \times 12in$ lasagna pan. If she doubles the recipe, will the brownies come out the same?

Answer.	First, choose the correct formula.	Area of a rectangle $A = length \times width$
	The total area of the two different pan sizes is what's important.	$A = 8in \times 8in$ $A = 64in^{2}$
	We want to know if a $9in \times 12in$ pan is twice as big as an $8in \times 8in$ pan.	$A = 9in \times 12in$ $A = 108in^{2}$
	The area of the lasagna pan is less than double the area of the smaller pan $(108/2 = 54)$. If she doubles the recipe the brownies will be thicker than the recipe intends.	

In the last example, the $8in \times 8in$ pan was a square, but we used the rectangle formula to find the area.

How is that okay? Isn't there another formula for squares?



It's okay because squares are actually a special type of rectangle – they're rectangles that have four sides of equal length.

???

All of the rectangle formulas can be used on squares!



WAIT

Example 4: A teddy bear cake is made out a sheet cake, a square cake cut into 4 equal strips, a circle cake and two cupcakes. They are arranged like so:



The sheet cake is $10in \times 14in$, the square cake is $8in \times 8in$, the circular cake has a diameter of 9in and the cupcakes have radii of 1.5in. What is the perimeter of the finished cake?

Answer:	First, divide the $8in \times 8in$ cake into 4 parts.	$8in \div 4 = 2in$
	The arms and legs are $8in \times 2in$ pieces.	
	Find the circumferences of the	$C = 3.14 \times diameter$
	circular cakes.	$C = 3.14 \times 9in$
		C = 28.26in
	In the case of the cupcakes, the	diamaton — Ox na dina
	radius needs to be converted to a	$diameter = 2 \times 7 datus$
	diameter before using the formula.	$diameter = 2 \times 1.5 m$
		alameter = Sin
		$C = 3.14 \times diameter$
		$C = 3.14 \times 3in$
		C = 9.42in
	The perimeter is the distance	Right side (starting at leg) =
	around the outside edge of the	8 + (14 - 2) + 8 + 2 = 30 in
	cake.	Top (starting at top of right arm)= $8 + 10 + 8 + 28.26 + (2 \times 9.42)$ = 73.10 in
	Start here	Left side (same as right) = 30 in
		Bottom (starting at leg) =
		2 + 8 + (10 - 4) + 8 + 2 = 26 in
		Total = 30 + 73.10 + 30 + 26 = 159.10 in

→ Notice that where the legs and arms meet the body, the width of the arm/leg isn't included in the perimeter. This is because the area where the parts meet isn't on the outside of the cake.

Practice Problems

Practice calculating area and perimeter (as indicated) for the shapes and dimensions given below.

1.	circle	radius = 10 cm	Area
2.	triangle	base = 5 cm, height = 4 cm	Area
3.	rectangle	length = 13 in, width = 2 in	Perimeter
4.	circle	diameter = 6 in	Circumference
5.	rectangle	length = 9 in, width = 9 in	Area
6.	circle	diameter = 8 cm	Area
7.	triangle	base = 7 cm, sides = 5 cm	Perimeter
8.	circle	radius = 4 in	Circumference
9.	rectangle	length = 6 in, width = 6 in	Perimeter
10.	triangle	height = 14 cm, base is one-fourth of the height	Area

- 11. Alison is making a mouse cake for her nephew's birthday party. She plans to use two circular cakes with diameters of *6 in.* and a larger circular cake with a *14 in.* diameter. What will the area of the finished cake be?
- 12. Trey is constructing a VW bug cake for a car dealership. He make the tires out of two cupcakes of radius *2.5 inches* and half of a circular cake *15 in.* diameter for the car body. What is the area of the VW bug cake?
- 13. A cake has a diameter of 9 in. It is cut into 16 pieces. What is the area of one piece of cake? (Round to the nearest whole number)
- 14. Melissa is building a cityscape using a variety of rectangular sheet cakes. She uses five rectangles measuring 12 in. x 4 in., 8 in. x 3 in., 9 in. x 5 in., 13 in x 2 in, and 7 in. x 3 in. Assuming these rectangles are assembled in the order listed, with all rectangles being placed so the length is vertical, what is the area of cake needed? What will the perimeter be? (Hint: review Example 4).

Answers

1.	314 cm ²	9.	24 in
2.	10 cm ²	10.	24.5 cm
3.	30 in	11.	210.38 in ²
4.	18.84 in	12.	127.56 in ²
5.	81 in ²	13.	4 in ²
6.	50.24 cm ²	14.	Area = 164 in ² , Perimeter = 68 in
7.	17 cm		
8.	25.12 in		

