

Perimeter Sample Activity

56. Use your centimeter ruler to find the perimeter of each of the objects provided by your teacher.

Provide 5 objects with straight edges and different shapes. Only one of them should be a rectangle. Examples: picture frame, place mat, non-rectangular box top, triangle, and irregular polygons cut from cardstock.

The class discussion should include consideration of what are the fewest number of actual measurements that need to be made for each object. Connect this to the idea of folding things in such a way that the two parts fit nicely one on top of the other. The sides that fit are obviously the same length; so we don't have to measure both of them.

Answers for the whole class should be tabulated, and a reasonable range of answers for each object should be thoroughly discussed. For objects which require only two or three actual measurements, answers should vary very little. For items which require more measurements, the range of answers might reasonably be several inches.