

## COOKIE AREA \& PERIMETER



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$\qquad$ Date: $\qquad$
Christmas cookies are delicious. They often come iced or with glittery red and green sprinkles. There are sugary ones, chocolatey ones, gingerbread ones, and even ones with some festive holiday spice. The best part: they come in all shapes and sizes. Sure, some might come in a standard cookie shape, but many come in special holiday shapes, such as the shape of a tree, snowman, sleigh, or Santa himself.

You can find the perimeter and area of cookies, just like you do with two dimensional shapes in class. Perimeter is the total length of a shape's sides, added up. To find perimeter, measure the sides and combine them. Area is all the space found within the sides of a shape. It's a little more complicated to calculate. That's because different kinds of regular shapes - which are shapes with equal angles and equal sides - have different formulas for area. To find the area of a square, for example, multiply the length by the width. Finding the areas of other regular shapes usually requires more complicated formulas.

Things get even more complicated when we start talking about irregular shapes. Those are shapes with different sized angles and side lengths. Some irregular shapes are easier to work with than others.
That's because they're easy to break up into common regular shapes. If this is possible, break the irregular shape into regular shapes. Then, find the areas of these regular shapes and add them up. If you're dealing with a very irregular shape, though (such as a Christmas cookie!), you might need to try another method.

This method uses grid paper. It doesn't allow for an exact measurement of area, but it will give you a pretty good estimation. First, find the area of one of the grids on your grid paper by multiplying two of its sides together. Now, trace the cookie onto the grid paper. Count the number of full squares inside your cookie. Next, count the squares that are exactly half full of cookie. Then, count the number of squares that are more than half full of cookie. Count these as one square. Any square less than half full of cookie, ignore. Total up all the units you're counting as a whole or half square. (Two halves equal a whole.) Then, multiply that total by the area of a single square, which you calculated earlier. That's the area of your cookie!

## COOKIE AREA \& PERIMETER

Name: $\qquad$ Date: $\qquad$

1. What is perimeter and how do you calculate it?
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$\qquad$
2. What is area?
3. Why is area complicated to calculate?
4. What is the easiest way to calculate the area of irregular shapes?
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## COOKIE AREA \& PERIMETER ANSWERS

1. What is perimeter and how do you calculate it?

The total length of a shape's sides, added up. To find perimeter, measure the sides and combine them.
2. What is area?

All the space found within the sides of a shape.
3. Why is area complicated to calculate?

Because some shapes are regular, and some are irregular.
4. What is the easiest way to calculate the area of irregular shapes?

Break it up into regular shapes.

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COOKIE AREA \& PERIMETER
Name: $\qquad$ Date: $\qquad$
Color and cut out the cookies, then trace them onto the graph paper. Follow the instructions in the reading passage to determine the perimeter and area.

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Name: $\qquad$ Date: $\qquad$
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Name: $\qquad$ Date: $\qquad$

|  | PERIMETER | AREA |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| GINGERBREAD |  |  |
| PRESENT |  |  |
| ORNAMENT |  |  |
| TREE |  |  |
| SNOWMAN |  |  |
| WREATH |  |  |
| STAR |  |  |
| BELL |  |  |

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