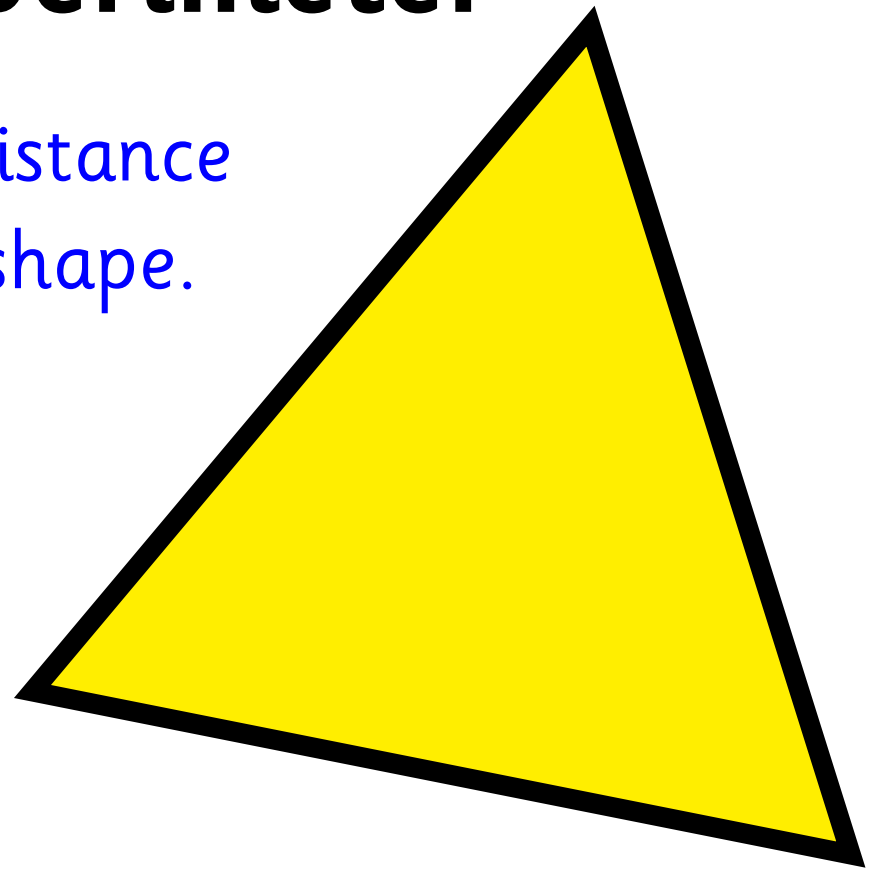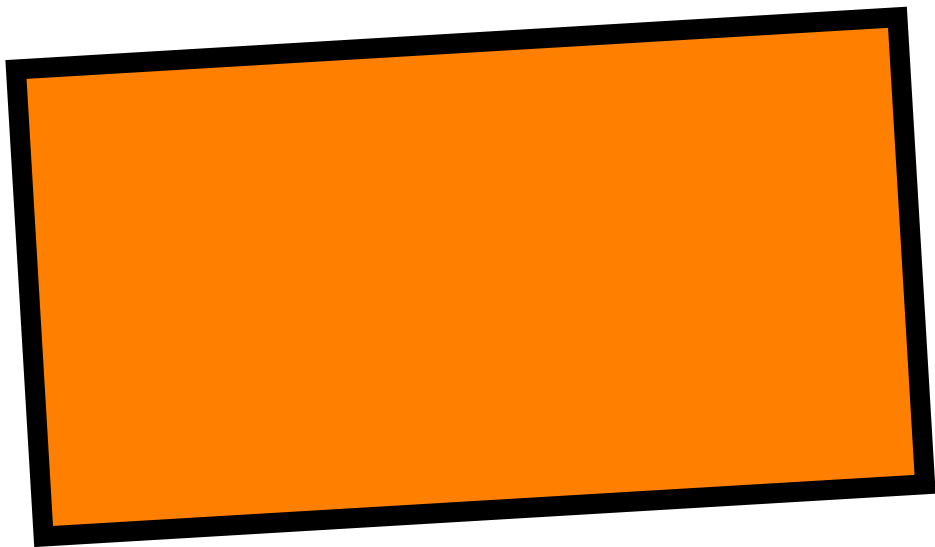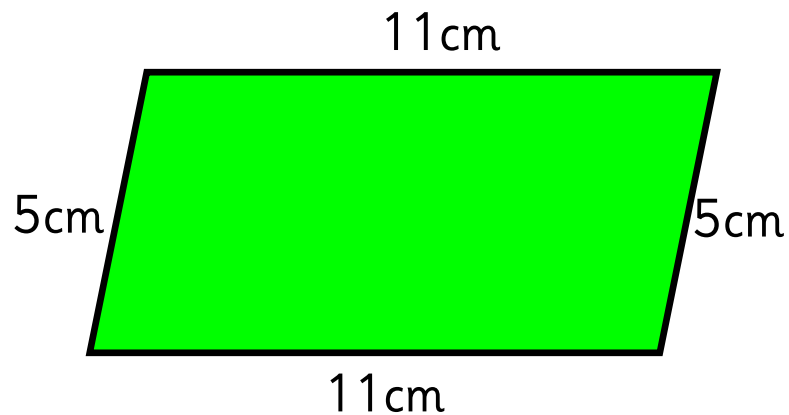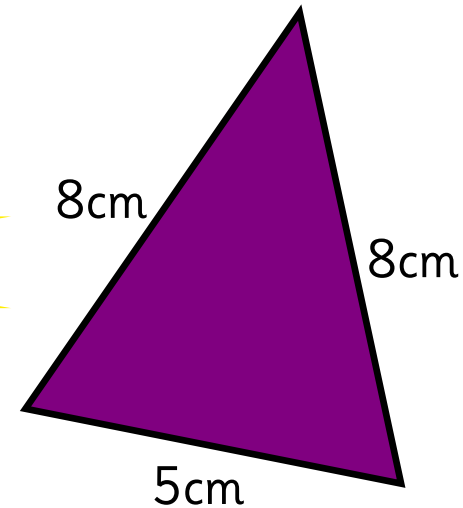# Finding the **perimeter**

The **perimeter** is the total distance around the outside of a 2D shape.

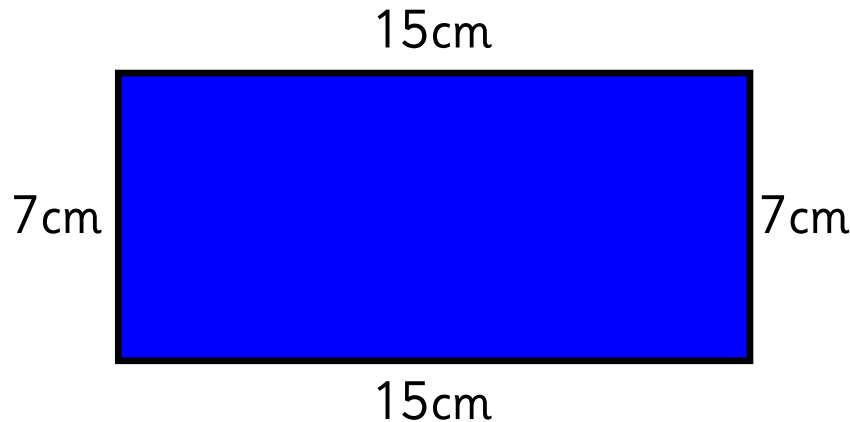To find the perimeter of any straight-sided shape, just **add up the length of all the sides**.

Finding the **perimeter**

The **perimeter** of this triangle is
8cm + 8cm + 5cm = **21cm**

8cm

8cm

5cm

11cm

5cm

5cm

11cm

The **perimeter** of this parallelogram is
11cm + 11cm + 5cm + 5cm = **32cm**

Finding the **perimeter**: rectangle

15cm

7cm

7cm

15cm

The perimeter:
15cm + 15cm + 7cm + 7cm
= 44cm

Rectangles and parallelograms have two pairs of equal parallel sides, so you could also work it out like this:
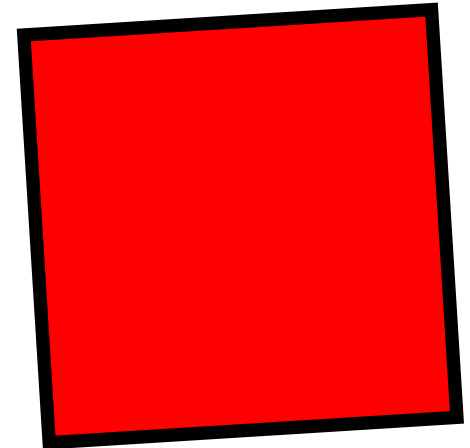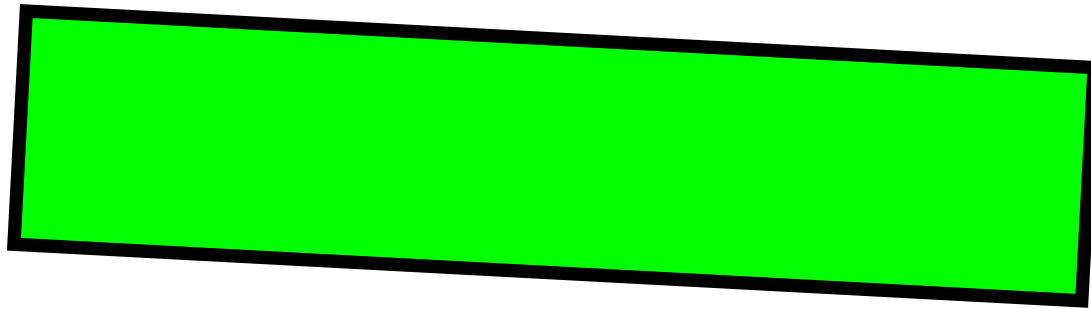
add 15cm and 7cm then multiply by 2

or

multiply 15cm by 2 and 7cm by 2 and add the totals together

Finding the **area**

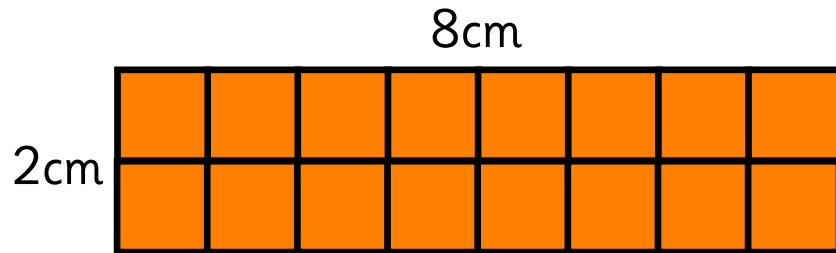The **area** is the total amount of surface a 2D shape covers.

Area is measured in square units.

squared centimetres (**cm²**)
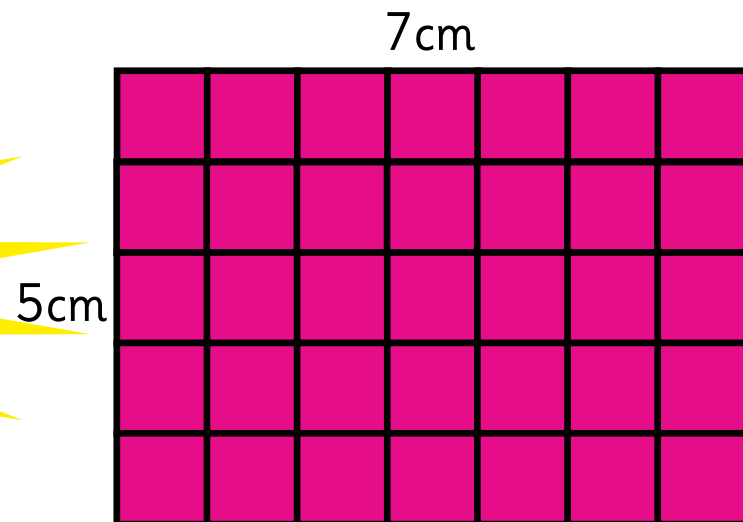
squared metres (**m²**)

squared kilometres (**km²**)
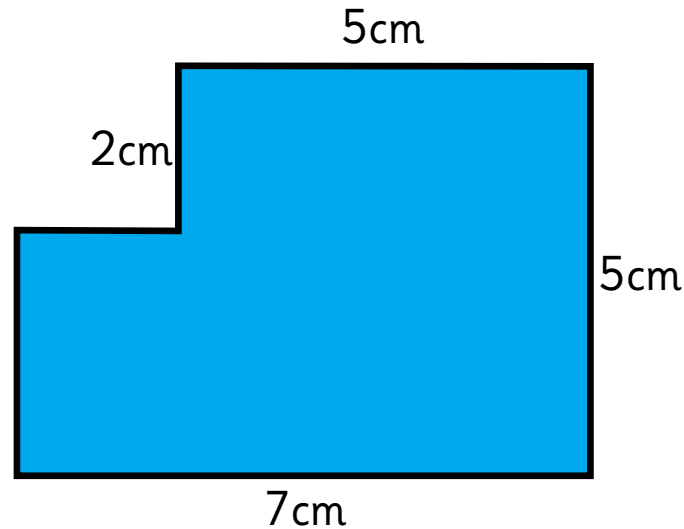
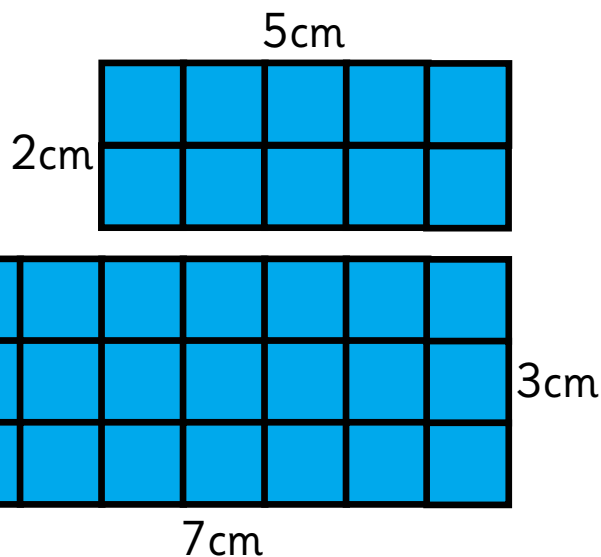# Finding the **area**: rectangle

8cm

2cm

The area:
8cm × 2cm
= 16cm^2

The area:
7cm × 5cm
= 35cm^2

7cm

5cm

Finding the **area**

5cm

2cm

5cm

7cm

You can calculate the area of shapes made up of rectangles by breaking them down into individual rectangles.

5cm

2cm

3cm

7cm

The area:

$5cm \times 2cm = 10cm^2$

$7cm \times 3cm = 21cm^2$

$10cm^2 + 21cm^2 = \mathbf{31cm^2}$