Understanding Area Using Unit Squares

Today's Standard

3.MD.C5b - A plane figure which can be covered without gaps or overlaps by n unit squares is said to have an area of n square units.

Real-World Applications for this Standard

Covering a floor with tiles; Calculating the area of a garden bed; Designing a poster; Measuring the area of a playground; Creating artwork with square tiles

Today I Learned

Today we learned about area, which is the space inside a shape that can be covered by unit squares without any gaps or overlaps.

Common Stumbling Blocks

Some kids might think overlapping squares count towards the area, but they don't. Others might mix up perimeter (the distance around a shape) with area (the space inside the shape).

Quiz Me

- What is area?

- What is a unit square?

- Can unit squares overlap when measuring area?

- What is the difference between area and perimeter?

- Can you name a real-world example where you need to find the area?

Help Me

Area is the space inside a shape that you can cover with squares. Think about tiling a floor or measuring a garden bed. You want to make sure the squares don't overlap and there are no gaps.