Square Count Sort

Find the area by counting unit squares.

MT.3.MD.5 "Recognize area as an attribute of plane figures and understand concepts of area measurement by: Understanding that a square with side length 1 unit..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

6 SQUARE UNITS

A unit square has sides 1 unit long and an area of 1 square unit. A figure covered by exactly 6 unit squares, with no gaps or overlaps, has an area of 6 square units.

This row of 6 unit squares has an area of 6 square units.



NOT 6 SQUARE UNITS

Count the unit squares covering the figure. If the count is not 6, the area is not 6 square units.

This row of 3 unit squares has an area of 3 square units.



1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle SIX or OTHER for each figure; for Part 2, choose one figure from each group and explain how you knew where each belonged.

1. 

Figure 1

SIX OTHER

2. 

Figure 2

SIX OTHER

3. 

Figure 3

SIX OTHER

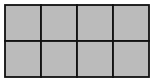
4. 

Figure 4

SIX OTHER

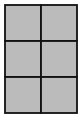
5. 

Figure 5

SIX OTHER

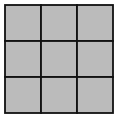
6. 

Figure 6

SIX OTHER

7. 

Figure 7

SIX OTHER

8. 

Figure 8

SIX OTHER

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new figure for SIX and one for OTHER. Tell how many unit squares cover each figure.

SIX

OTHER

CHALLENGE

Describe two different rectangles that each have an area of 8 square units. Give the rows and columns for each.

ANSWER KEY

Square Count Sort

GRADE 3 · MT.3.MD.5

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Figure 1 (array)	**OTHER**	Four unit squares give an area of 4 square units.
2	Figure 2 (array)	**SIX**	Six unit squares give an area of 6 square units.
3	Figure 3 (array)	**OTHER**	Five unit squares give an area of 5 square units.
4	Figure 4 (array)	**OTHER**	Eight unit squares give an area of 8 square units.
5	Figure 5 (array)	**SIX**	Six unit squares give an area of 6 square units.
6	Figure 6 (array)	**OTHER**	Nine unit squares give an area of 9 square units.
7	Figure 7 (array)	**SIX**	Six unit squares give an area of 6 square units.
8	Figure 8 (array)	**OTHER**	Seven unit squares give an area of 7 square units.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SIX**: An L shape made from 6 unit squares has an area of 6 square units.
- **OTHER**: A row of 10 unit squares has an area of 10 square units.

Challenge: One rectangle has 1 row and 8 columns. The other has 4 rows and 2 columns. Each has 8 unit squares.

For Part 2, accept explanations that count the unit squares and state the area. For example, Figure 2 has 6 unit squares, while Figure 1 has 4.