

Square Unit Detectives

Find the squares that measure one square unit of area.

NY-3.MD.5.a "Recognize a square with side length 1 unit, called "a unit square," is said to have "one square unit" of area, and can be used to measure area."

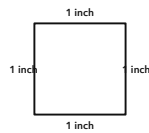
NAME _____

DATE _____

UNIT SQUARE

A unit square is a square with side lengths of 1 unit. It covers 1 square unit of area.

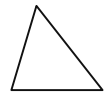
A square coaster has sides that are 1 inch long. It is a unit square.



NOT A UNIT SQUARE

A shape is not a unit square if it is not a square, or if its side length is not 1 unit.

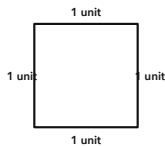
A triangle is not a unit square because it is not a square.



1 SORT _____ 8 items

For Part 1, circle the category for each item, then for Part 2, choose two item numbers and write why each shape belongs in its category.

1.

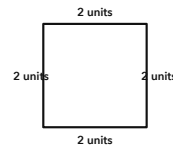


Each side is 1 unit.

UNIT SQUARE

NOT UNIT

2.

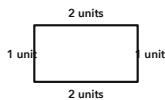


Each side is 2 units.

UNIT SQUARE

NOT UNIT

3.

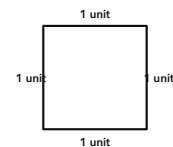


Length: 2 units. Width: 1 unit.

UNIT SQUARE

NOT UNIT

4.

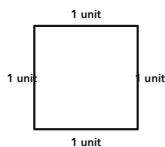


Side length: 1 unit.

UNIT SQUARE

NOT UNIT

5.

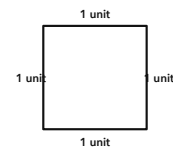


All four sides measure 1 unit.

UNIT SQUARE

NOT UNIT

6.

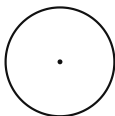


A square has sides 1 unit long.

UNIT SQUARE

NOT UNIT

7.

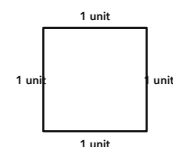


A circle.

UNIT SQUARE

NOT UNIT

8.



Each side measures 1 unit.

UNIT SQUARE

NOT UNIT

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

Part 3: Write one new example of a unit square and one new example that is not a unit square.

UNIT SQUARE _____

NOT UNIT _____

CHALLENGE

Draw a shape made from 4 unit squares. Then write its area in square units.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Each side is 1 unit. (square)	UNIT SQUARE	It is a square, and every side is 1 unit long.
2	Each side is 2 units. (square)	NOT UNIT	It is a square, but its side length is 2 units, not 1 unit.
3	Length: 2 units. Width: 1 unit. (rectangle)	NOT UNIT	It is a rectangle with different side lengths, not a square.
4	Side length: 1 unit. (square)	UNIT SQUARE	It is a square with sides that are 1 unit long.
5	All four sides measure 1 unit. (square)	UNIT SQUARE	It is a square with side length 1 unit.
6	A square has sides 1 unit long. (square)	UNIT SQUARE	It is a square with side length 1 unit.
7	A circle. (circle)	NOT UNIT	A circle is not a square.
8	Each side measures 1 unit. (square)	UNIT SQUARE	It is a square with side length 1 unit.

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)

- **UNIT SQUARE:** A square with sides 1 meter long.
- **NOT UNIT:** A rectangle that is 1 meter long and 3 meters wide.

Challenge: A 2-by-2 square made from four unit squares has an area of 4 square units.

Items 1, 4, 5, 6, and 8 are UNIT SQUARE. Items 2, 3, and 7 are NOT UNIT. Accept different correct drawings for the challenge, as long as the shape uses exactly 4 unit squares and the area is 4 square units.