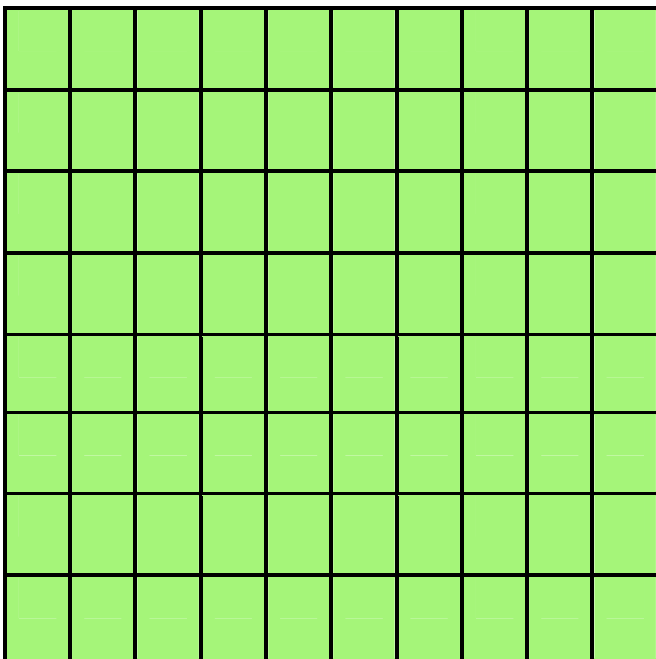


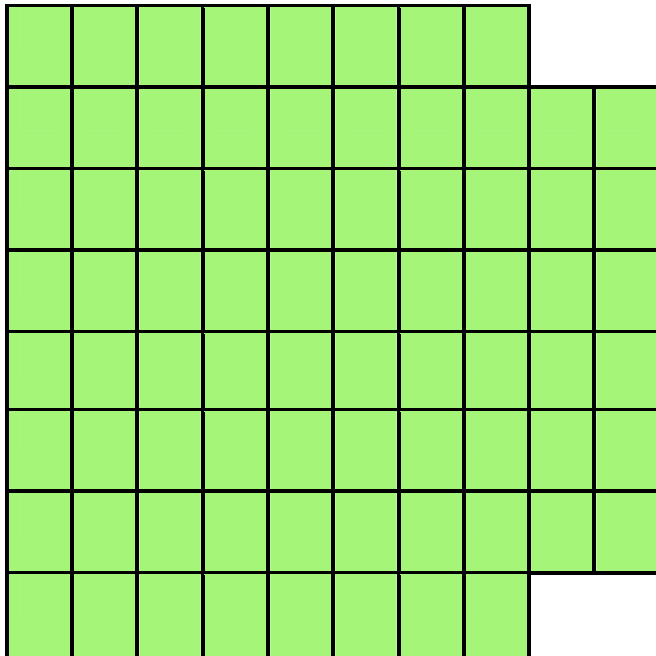
# Finding the Area of Irregular Figures-

Here is a hands-on way for finding the area of irregular figures. There are a few ways, and this is just one. Cut and pass this out to your students. Laminating this would also be nice. If you have array cards, that may help, also.



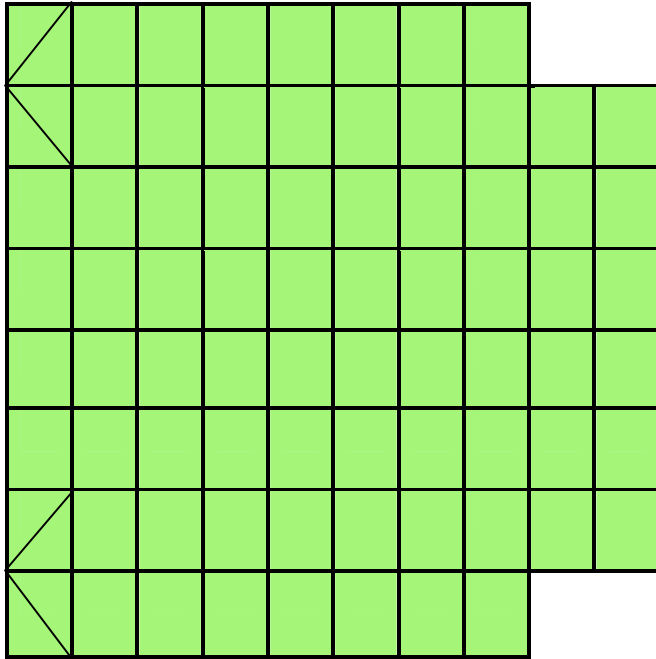
Naturally, students count the amount of squares. Or they can multiply the length x the width. Length= 8 x Width= 10. There are 80 squares.

Now have them compare the square above with this next square.



Squares have been cut out. How many? Four squares. What is  $80 - 4$ ? The answer for the area of this figure is 76 squares. That's pretty simple, right?

Now I am going to cut out half-squares. My apologies that the half-squares aren't half white and half green. Students can actually start with the first set of green squares and cut off halves.



Now you see that I have separated four squares in half. If I cut off four halves, how many wholes is that? If you answered that I cut off two whole squares, you are correct. Two squares equal one whole. Now that means I have  $76 - 2 = 74$  full squares.

Now you can have your students cut the squares and see the squares they have cut out on their desks for an even better visual.