



Family Resources for Math 6 Unit 1: Area and Surface Area

Dear Families,

We are excited to begin Unit 1 in middle school math using our new **Illustrative Mathematics (IM)** curriculum. This is our first year using IM, which emphasizes making sense of math, explaining reasoning, and building strong problem-solving skills. Students will engage in meaningful discussion, explore real-world problems, and collaborate with classmates. You may notice your child talking more about *how* they got an answer, not just the answer itself. [Click here](#) to learn more!

To support your child, encourage them to explain their thinking, ask questions when they are unsure, access the lesson summaries, and complete their homework! Homework (practice problems) includes a few problems connected to the current lesson along with review problems from earlier in the unit and previous learning. This approach, called distributed practice, helps strengthen understanding over time more effectively than practicing a single topic all at once.



Thank you for your support! Each unit will include information that can help you understand what your student is learning and how you can help at home. Visit the [Office of Mathematics website](#) for additional resources.



Big Ideas in Unit 1

Within this unit, students will learn these big ideas:

- Reasoning to Find Area
- Parallelograms
- Triangles and Other Polygons
- Surface Area
- Squares and Cubes

For more details about this unit, see [Unit 1 Family Resources](#).

Lesson Specific Resources

Use the links below to learn about the learning from each lesson.

Lesson Link
1.1 Tiling the Plane
1.2 Finding Area by Decomposing and Rearranging
1.3 Reasoning to Find Area
1.4 Parallelograms
1.5 Bases and Heights of Parallelograms
1.6 Area of Parallelograms
1.7 From Parallelograms to Triangles
1.8 Area of Triangles
1.9 Formula for the Area of a Triangle
1.10 Bases and Heights of Triangles
1.11 Polygons
1.12 What Is Surface Area?
1.13 Polyhedra
1.14 Nets and Surface Area
1.15 More Nets, More Surface Area
1.16 Distinguishing Between Surface Area and Volume
1.17 Squares and Cubes
1.18 Surface Area of a Cube
1.19 All about Tents