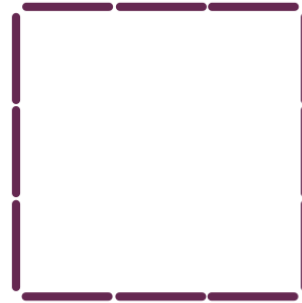


Puzzle of the Week

Stick Areas

Suppose you have 12 sticks to use to enclose a region with horizontal and vertical sides. These three possible ways for doing that enclose areas of size 3, 5, and 9.



THE CHALLENGE: Find all the possible areas that you can create with 12 sticks.

EXPLORATION: What happens when you change the number of sticks? Are there some numbers of sticks that don't work at all?