Chapter 10: Perimeter, Area & Circumference

SECTION 3: COMPOSITE FIGURES

Megan Frantz   Okemos High School   Math Instructor

I Can

❑ Use the Area Addition Postulate to find areas of composite figures

❑ Use composite figures to estimate areas of irregular shapes
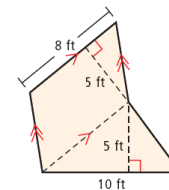

Composite Figures

A **composite figure** is made up of simple shapes, such as triangles, rectangles, trapezoids, and circles.

To find the area of a composite figure, find the areas of the simple shapes and then use the Area Addition Postulate.
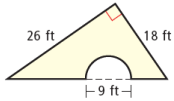

Example

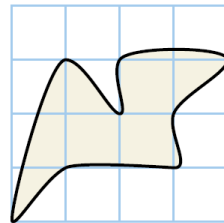**Find the shaded area. Round to the nearest tenth, if necessary.**

8 ft

5 ft

5 ft

10 ft

Example

Find the shaded area. Round to the nearest tenth, if necessary.

26 ft   18 ft

⊢ 9 ft ⊣

Irregular Shapes

To estimate the area of an irregular shape, you can sometimes use a composite figure.

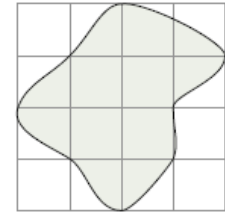Draw a composite figure that resembles the irregular shape. Then divide the composite figure into simple shapes

Example

Use a composite figure to estimate the shaded area. The grid has squares with a side length of 1 ft.

I Can

❑ Use the Area Addition Postulate to find areas of composite figures

❏ Use composite figures to estimate areas of irregular shapes