Objective: Measure and compare the perimeter of simple 2-D shapes in practical contexts

Year 3 Task: 'Investigating Perimeter'

Perimeter is the distance around a closed shape. It is a linear measurement.

Ask your child to decide how they will measure the garden / outdoor area – e.g. measuring tape, piece of rope, own stride

- Decide whether part measurements will be rounded up or down, to simplify
- Measure particular parts of the garden or outdoor space. This could be a vegetable patch, raised beds, flower borders, a paved area, garden shed etc. Remember to measure any boundaries / perimeter fences
- Measurements could then be transferred onto cm squared paper; label the areas of the garden plan to show usage / purpose

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Variation

What if, in your garden you wanted to create a rectangular flower bed with a perimeter of 20 metres? **How many different rectangles could you create?** Record the measurements for the length and width of your flower bed.

For example:

9m

1m
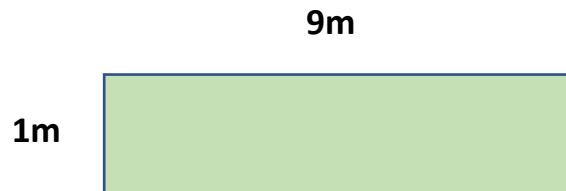
9m + 9m + 1m + 1m = 20m

You could use squared paper to help you…

What if you changed the shape of your flower bed? Explore how many other 2D shapes with a perimeter of 24 metres you can find.

Consider the following: triangle, square, rectangle, pentagon, hexagon, octagon.

If the lengths of the sides of your flower bed had to be to a whole metre, with a perimeter of 24 metres, which 2D shapes are possible? How do you know that you have found all the possible solutions?

If you can't remember how many sides each of the 2D shapes have, you could look them up in a dictionary.

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