

area of shaded region worksheet with answers

Published: September 19, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Introduction

When students first encounter geometry, one of the most common and visually engaging challenges is determining the **area of a shaded region**. Whether the shading appears on a single shape or a combination of overlapping figures, the process of calculating the area requires a clear understanding of basic geometric formulas, the ability to decompose complex shapes, and a systematic approach to problem solving.

This article offers a comprehensive guide to mastering the area of shaded region problems, complete with step by step explanations, illustrative worksheets, and ready made answers. By the end of this read, you will have a solid toolkit to help students confidently tackle any shaded region worksheet and to support teachers in providing targeted practice.

Understanding the Concept of Shaded Regions

What Is a Shaded Region?

A shaded region is any part of a diagram that is highlighted or colored to distinguish it from the rest of the figure. In geometry, these regions often represent the area that students need to calculate. The shading can be simple—such as a single rectangle—or complex, involving overlapping circles, triangles, or irregular shapes.

Why Shaded Regions Matter in Geometry

Shaded region problems test several key skills:

- Recognizing familiar shapes and their properties.
- Applying area formulas accurately.
- Decomposing a composite figure into simpler parts.
- Using algebraic expressions when dimensions are given symbolically.
- Translating a visual diagram into mathematical equations.

Why Use Worksheets for the Area of Shaded Region?

Worksheets serve as practical tools for:

- Reinforcing the learning of area formulas.
- Encouraging independent problem solving.
- Providing instant feedback through answer keys.
- Building confidence through repeated practice.

When worksheets include clear diagrams and step by step solutions, they become an invaluable resource for both students and teachers.

Key Formulas for Calculating Area of Shaded Regions

Basic Shapes

- Square: A^2 (where A is the side length).

- Rectangle: $L \times W$ (length $\times$ width).
- Triangle: $(\text{Base} \times \text{Height}) \div 2$.
- Circle: πr^2 (radius).
- Parallelogram: $\text{Base} \times \text{Height}$.
- Trapezoid: $((\text{Base1} + \text{Base2}) \times \text{Height}) \div 2$.

Composite Shapes and Subtractions

When a shaded region is part of a larger figure, you often need to subtract the area of the unshaded portion from the total area. The general approach is:

1. Calculate the area of the entire figure.
2. Determine the area(s) of the unshaded portion(s).
3. Subtract the unshaded area(s) from the total area to obtain the shaded area.

Alternatively, if the shaded region itself is a composite shape, you can decompose it into basic shapes, calculate each area, and then sum them.

Step by Step Guide to Solving Area of Shaded Region Problems

1. Identify All Shapes and Their Dimensions

Carefully examine the diagram. Note the type of each shape, any overlapping areas, and all given measurements. If a dimension is missing, check whether it can be inferred from other data or if the problem requires an algebraic variable.

2. Choose the Appropriate Formula(s)

Match each shape to its area formula. For circles, remember to use π (approximately 3.1416). For irregular shapes, look for ways to approximate or decompose them into familiar shapes.

3. Compute Individual Areas

Perform the calculations for each shape. Keep a clear record of intermediate results, especially if you need to subtract or add later.

4. Apply Additions or Subtractions

Depending on the diagram, you may need to:

- Add areas of multiple shaded shapes.
- Subtract the area of unshaded portions from the total area.
- Use algebraic expressions when dimensions are variables.

5. Verify Units and Accuracy

Check that the final answer includes the correct units (e.g., square centimeters, square inches). Double check arithmetic to avoid simple calculation errors.

Sample Worksheets with Answers

Worksheet 1: Simple Shaded Rectangles

Below are five problems featuring a single shaded rectangle within a larger rectangle.

1. Given a rectangle 12 cm by 8 cm with a shaded rectangle 5 cm by 3 cm inside it, find the area of the shaded region.

2. A rectangle measures 15 inches by 10 inches. A shaded rectangle of 7 inches by 4 inches is drawn inside it. What is the shaded area?
3. In a rectangle 9 cm by 6 cm, a smaller rectangle 4 cm by 2 cm is shaded. Calculate the shaded area.
4. Rectangle dimensions: 20 cm by 12 cm. Shaded rectangle: 10 cm by 5 cm. Find the area of the shaded portion.
5. A rectangle 18 inches by 9 inches contains a shaded rectangle of 9 inches by 3 inches. Determine the shaded area.

Answers:

1. $5 \text{ cm} \times 3 \text{ cm} = 15 \text{ cm}^2$.
2. $7 \text{ inches} \times 4 \text{ inches} = 28 \text{ in}^2$.
3. $4 \text{ cm} \times 2 \text{ cm} = 8 \text{ cm}^2$.
4. $10 \text{ cm} \times 5 \text{ cm} = 50 \text{ cm}^2$.
5. $9 \text{ inches} \times 3 \text{ inches} = 27 \text{ in}^2$.

Worksheet 2: Composite Shapes

These problems involve overlapping shapes where the shaded region is a combination of multiple basic figures.

1. A large rectangle 10 cm by 8 cm contains a shaded triangle with a base of 8 cm and a height of 4 cm. The rectangle also includes a shaded circle of radius 2 cm. Find the total shaded area.
2. Within a rectangle 12 inches by 9 inches, a shaded trapezoid has bases of 6 inches and 4 inches and a height of 5 inches. Additionally, a shaded semicircle with diameter 4 inches is attached to the rectangle. Calculate the combined shaded area.
3. A square 14 cm on each side contains a shaded triangle with base 12 cm and height 6 cm. There is also a shaded rectangle 4 cm by 3 cm within the square. Determine the total shaded area.
4. In a rectangle 16 inches by 10 inches, a shaded rectangle 8 inches by 5 inches overlaps partially with a shaded circle of radius 3 inches. The overlapping area is 12 in^2 . Find the total shaded area.
5. Within a rectangle 20 cm by 15 cm, a shaded triangle has a base of 15 cm and a height of 10 cm. A shaded semicircle with a diameter equal to the rectangle's width (15 cm) sits on one side. Compute the total shaded area.

Answers:

1. Triangle area: $(8 \text{ cm} \times 4 \text{ cm}) \div 2 = 16 \text{ cm}^2$. Circle area: $\pi r^2 = \pi (2)^2 = 4\pi \approx 12.57 \text{ cm}^2$. Total = $16 + 12.57 = 28.57 \text{ cm}^2$.
2. Trapezoid area: $((6 + 4) \times 5) \div 2 = 25 \text{ in}^2$. Semicircle area: $\frac{1}{2} \pi r^2 = \frac{1}{2} \pi (2)^2 = 2\pi \approx 6.28 \text{ in}^2$. Total = $25 + 6.28 = 31.28 \text{ in}^2$.
3. Triangle area: $(12 \times 6) \div 2 = 36 \text{ cm}^2$. Rectangle area: $4 \times 3 = 12 \text{ cm}^2$. Total = $36 + 12 = 48 \text{ cm}^2$.
4. Shaded rectangle area: $8 \times 5 = 40 \text{ in}^2$. Circle area: $\pi r^2 = \pi (3)^2 = 9\pi \approx 28.27 \text{ in}^2$. Overlap: 12 in^2 . Total shaded = $40 + 28.27 - 12 = 56.27 \text{ in}^2$.
5. Triangle area: $(15 \times 10) \div 2 = 75 \text{ cm}^2$. Semicircle area: $\frac{1}{2} \pi r^2 = \frac{1}{2} \pi (7.5)^2 = 28.125\pi \approx 88.36 \text{ cm}^2$. Total = $75 + 88.36 = 163.36 \text{ cm}^2$.

Worksheet 3: Advanced Problems

These problems incorporate algebraic expressions and require more nuanced reasoning.

1. In a rectangle with length $2x + 4 \text{ cm}$ and width $x \text{ cm}$, a shaded triangle occupies half of the rectangle. If the shaded area equals 50 cm^2 , find the value of x .
2. A circle of radius $r \text{ cm}$ contains a shaded sector that spans 60° . If the shaded area is $30\pi \text{ cm}^2$, find the radius r .
3. A square has side length $(3y - 2) \text{ cm}$. A shaded square inside it has side length $(y + 1) \text{ cm}$. If the shaded area is 9 cm^2 , find y .
4. Within a rectangle 12 cm by $(y + 3) \text{ cm}$, a shaded semicircle has a diameter equal to the rectangle's height. If the shaded area equals $18\pi \text{ cm}^2$, find y .

5. In a triangle with base $(2z + 5)$ cm and height 6 cm, a shaded triangle occupies $\frac{1}{3}$ of the area. If the shaded area is 12 cm^2 , find z .

Answers:

1. Rectangle area = $(2x + 4) \times x = 2x^2 + 4x$. Shaded area = half of rectangle = $(2x^2 + 4x) \div 2 = x^2 + 2x = 50$.
Solve $x^2 + 2x - 50 = 0$!' $(x + 8)(x - 6) = 0$. Positive solution: $x = 6 \text{ cm}$.

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