6.2 Surface Areas of Prisms



Work with a partner.

a. Use the net for the rectangular prism to find its surface area.



b. Copy the net for a rectangular prism. Label each side as h, w, or ℓ . Then use your drawing to write a formula for the surface area of a rectangular prism.



ACTIVITY: Finding Surface Area

2

Work with a partner. Find the surface area of the solid shown by the net. Copy the net, cut it out, and fold it to form a solid. Identify the solid.



-What Is Your Answer?

- **3. IN YOUR OWN WORDS** How can you use a net to find the surface area of a prism? Draw a net, cut it out, and fold it to form a prism.
- **4.** The greater the surface area of an ice block, the faster it will melt. Which will melt faster, the bigger block or the three smaller blocks? Explain your reasoning.





Use what you learned about the surface area of a prism to complete Exercises 6–8 on page 260.





Key Vocabulary () surface area, *p. 256* net, *p. 256*



Surface Area of a Rectangular Prism

Words The surface area *S* of a rectangular prism is the sum of the areas of the bases and the lateral faces.



2.

EXAMPLE **Finding the Surface Area of a Rectangular Prism**



Draw a net. $S = 2 \ell w + 2 \ell h + 2wh$ = 2(3)(5) + 2(3)(6) + 2(5)(6) = 30 + 36 + 60 = 126

Find the surface area of the prism.



• The surface area is 126 square inches.

🕨 On Your Own

Now You're Ready Exercises 9–11









Surface Area of a Prism

The surface area *S* of a prism is the sum of the areas of the bases and the lateral faces.

S =areas of bases + areas of lateral faces



On Your Own

6.2 Exercises

Vocabulary and Concept Check

1. OPEN-ENDED Describe a real-world situation in which you would want to find the surface area of a prism.

Find the indicated area for the rectangular prism.

- **2.** Area of Face *A*
- **3.** Area of Face *B*
- **4.** Area of Face *C*
- **5.** Surface area of the prism

Practice and Problem Solving

Draw a net for the prism. Then find the surface area.

16. TENT What is the least amount of fabric needed to make the tent?

Find the surface area of the prism.

 $25\frac{1}{12}$ ft

25 ft

5 ft

- **19. AQUARIUM** A public library has an aquarium in the shape of a rectangular prism. The base is 6 feet by 2.5 feet. The height is 4 feet. How many square feet of glass were used to build the aquarium? (The top of the aquarium is open.)
- **20. STORAGE BOX** The material used to make a storage box costs \$1.25 per square foot. The boxes have the same volume. How much does a company save by choosing to make 50 of Box 2 instead of 50 of Box 1?

	Length	Width	Height
Box 1	20 in.	6 in.	4 in.
Box 2	15 in.	4 in.	8 in.

- **21. RAMP** A quart of stain covers 100 square feet. How many quarts should you buy to stain the wheelchair ramp? (Assume you do not have to stain the bottom of the ramp.)
- **22. LABEL** A label that wraps around a box of golf balls covers 75% of its lateral surface area. What is the value of *x*?
- **23.** Write a formula for the surface area of a rectangular prism using the height h, the perimeter P of a base, and the area B of a base.

25 in.