

**Learning Tip:**

# **The Power of Visualization in Math**

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# The Power of Visualization in Math

- ▶ While some mathematical concepts can be abstract, it is often possible (and extremely helpful!) to find concrete visualizations of them.
- ▶ For example, given two real numbers  $a, b \geq 0$ , the product  $a \times b$  is the area of a rectangle with side lengths  $a$  and  $b$ .
- ▶ This is such a simple observation! What can we really get out of it?

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Some implications of the area interpretation of multiplication:

- ▶ For all real numbers  $a$  and  $b$ ,  $a \times b = b \times a$ .
- ▶ For all real numbers  $a$  and  $b$ ,  $(a + b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2$ .

<https://www.desmos.com/calculator/rth5txrz3s>

- ▶ For every positive integer  $n$ ,  $1 + 2 + 3 + \cdots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$ .

<https://www.desmos.com/calculator/cz8bnz6ns1>

- ▶ For every odd positive integer  $n$ ,  $n^2$  is a multiple of 8 plus 1.

<https://www.desmos.com/calculator/plgy1002jw>

Whenever possible, try to find concrete visual representations of the mathematical expressions and equations you encounter!