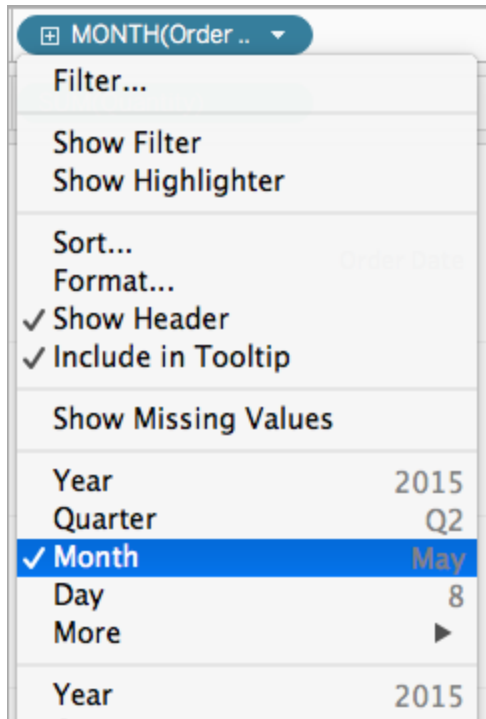# Create an Area Chart

An area chart is a line chart where the area between the line and the axis are shaded with a color. These charts are typically used to represent accumulated totals over time and are the conventional way to display stacked lines. Follow the steps below to create an area chart.

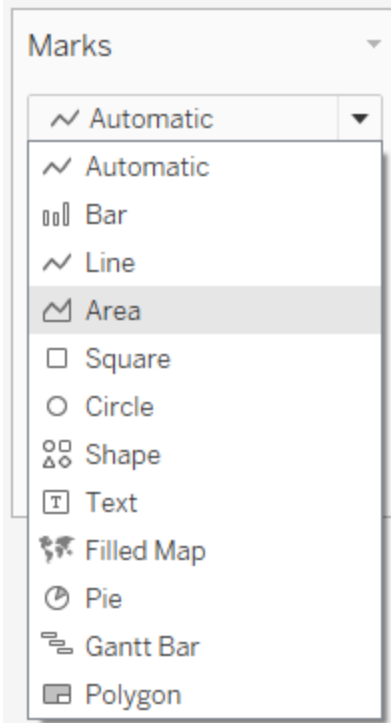The basic building blocks for an area chart are as follows:

Mark type:	Area
Columns shelf:	Dimension
Rows shelf:	Measure
Color:	Dimension

To create an area chart, follow the steps below:

1. Open Tableau Desktop and connect to the **Sample - Superstore** data source.

2. Navigate to a new worksheet.

3. From the **Data** pane, under Dimensions, drag **Order Date** to the **Columns** shelf.

4. On the Columns shelf, right-click **YEAR(Order Date)** and select **Month**.

5. From the **Data** pane, under Measures, drag **Quantity** to the **Rows** shelf.

6. From the **Date** pane, under Dimensions, drag **Ship Mode** to **Color** on the Marks card.

7. On the Marks card, click the Mark Type drop-down and select **Area**.

The visualization updates to the following: