

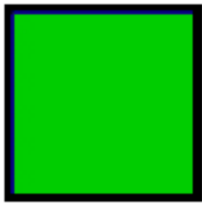
**Algebra 2**  
**Completing the Square Activity**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Goal: Given a quadratic equation in standard form  $(x^2 + bx + c)$ , we will rewrite it in vertex form  $((x - h)^2 + k)$ .*

**Part 1**

We will be working with algebra tiles. The value of the tile is its area...



**$x^2$  Tile**  
**Area =  $x \cdot x = x^2$  units**

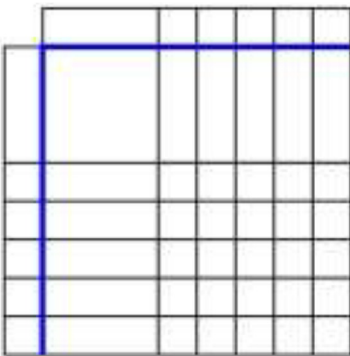


**x Tile**  
**Area =  $1 \cdot x = x$  units**

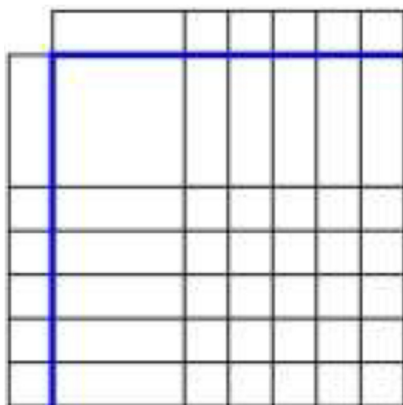


**Unit Tile**  
**Area =  $1 \cdot 1 = 1$  unit**

**Example**      $x^2 + 6x + 9$

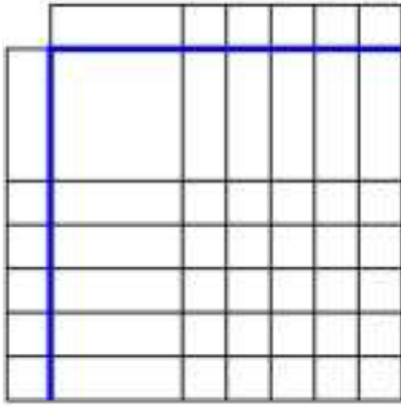


1: Create a partial square with the algebra tiles to represent  $x^2 + 2x + \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$ .



- How many unit tiles do you need to complete the square?
- What are the dimensions of the completed square?  
L = \_\_\_\_\_                      W = \_\_\_\_\_
- Replace  $c$  and  $h$  with numbers to make the statement true:  
 $x^2 + 2x + c = (x - h)^2$  \_\_\_\_\_

2: Create a partial square with the algebra tiles to represent  $x^2 + 4x + \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$ .



➤ How many unit tiles do you need to complete the square?

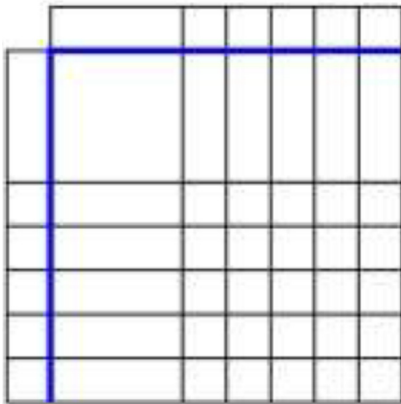
➤ What are the dimensions of the completed square?

L =  W =

➤ Replace  $c$  and  $h$  with numbers to make the statement true:

$$x^2 + 4x + c = (x - h)^2 \quad \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

3: Create a partial square with the algebra tiles to represent  $x^2 - 6x + \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$ .



➤ How many unit tiles do you need to complete the square?

➤ What are the dimensions of the completed square?

L =  W =

➤ Replace  $c$  and  $h$  with numbers to make the statement true:

$$x^2 - 6x + c = (x - h)^2 \quad \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

4. What is the relationship between the coefficient of  $x$  and the number of  $x$ 's you have down one side of your algebra tile diagram?

5. What is the relationship between the number of  $x$ 's down one side of the algebra tile diagram and the  $h$  in your perfect square?

6. What is the relationship between the coefficient of the  $x$  and the  $h$  in your perfect square?

7. In the expression  $y = x^2 + bx + c$ , how do you use  $b$  to find the value of  $c$  to form a perfect square and the  $h$  to rewrite as a perfect square? Use the examples above to explain your answer.

8. Try these problems – Fill in the missing “c” and then rewrite the trinomial as a perfect square binomial.

$x^2 - 10x + c$	$x^2 - 4x + c$	$x^2 + 12x + c$
$x^2 - 12x + c$	$x^2 + 7x + c$	$x^2 + bx + c$

## Part 2

Represent each expression using algebra tiles. Try to create a square of tiles. When doing so keep the following rules in mind:

- You may only use ONE  $x^2$ -tile in each square.
- You must use ALL the  $x^2$  and  $x$ -tiles. Unit tiles are the only ones that can be leftover or borrowed.
- If you need more unit tiles to create a square, you have to “borrow” them. The number you borrow will be a negative quantity.

Standard Form	Number of $x^2$ Tiles	Number of $x$ Tiles	Number of Unit Tiles	Sketch of the Square	Length of the Square	Area of the Square (Length) <sup>2</sup>	Unit Tiles Left Over (+) Borrowed (-)	Expression Combining Previous Two Columns
$x^2 + 2x + 3$	1	2	3		$x+1$	$(x+1)^2$	2	$(x+1)^2 + 2$
$x^2 + 4x + 1$								
$x^2 + 6x + 10$								

9. What is the name of the form written in the last column?

10. Convert the following equations from standard form to vertex form by completing the square.

$y = x^2 - 8x + 11$	$y = x^2 + 6x + 1$	$y = x^2 - 2x - 5$
$y = x^2 + 8x - 3$	$y = x^2 + 16x + 14$	$y = x^2 + 2x - 12$
$y = x^2 + 10x - 3$	$y = x^2 - 6x + 2$	$y = x^2 - 12x + 25$
$y = x^2 - 20x + 3$	$y = x^2 - 30x + 200$	$y = x^2 - 3x - 10$