area

noun  |  ar·ea  |  \\ˈer-ē-ə, ˈā-rē-ə\\

Popularity: Top 30% of words  |  Updated on: 25 May 2018

Definition of AREA

1 : the surface included within a set of lines; specifically : the number of unit squares equal in measure to the surface — see METRIC SYSTEM TABLE, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES TABLE

2 : the scope of a concept, operation, or activity : FIELD • the whole area of foreign policy

3 : AREAWAY

4 : a particular extent of space or surface or one serving a special function: such as
   a : a part of the surface of the body
   b : a geographic region

5 : a level piece of ground

6 : a part of the cerebral cortex having a particular function
See *area* defined for English-language learners

See *area* defined for kids

**Examples of area in a Sentence**

Settlers came to this *area* from the east.

The group visited the *area* during a hunting trip.

in the *area* surrounding the lake

The storm caused damage in many *areas* along the coast.

a bird found only in remote *areas* of the U.S.

in many *areas* of the world

He is the metropolitan *area*’s most popular politician.

He lived in an unfashionable *area* of the city.

She set aside a work *area* in the kitchen.

The dining *area* has extra windows.
This past season, Temple had two scholarship players from the Philadelphia area on its roster: guard Shizz Alston (Haverford School) and center Ernest Afklapui (Archbishop Carroll).

— Marc Narducci, Philly.com, "Aaron McKie to increase role as Temple starts transition from Fran Dunphy," 22 May 2018

They are separated from the slightly less sterile areas by windows streaked with disinfectant.

— Erika Fry, Fortune, "Critical Condition: Inside Pfizer’s Drug Supply Problem," 22 May 2018

Others bones are deliberately arranged in bundles with stones brought in from other areas, and in one case, fragments of hip bones from four different individuals were threaded on a tree branch.

— National Geographic, "Thousands of Human Bones Reveal 'Barbarian' Battle Rituals," 21 May 2018

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'area.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. Send us feedback.

Origin and Etymology of AREA

Latin, open space, threshing floor; perhaps akin to Latin arēre to be dry — more at ARID

AREA Synonyms

Synonyms
arena, bailiwick, business, circle, department, discipline, domain, element, fief, fiefdom, field, firmament, front, game, kingdom, line, precinct, province, realm,
avoirdupois weight, calorie, denier, kip, pace, twain

Phrases Related to AREA

Related Phrases

area of expertise
conservation area
gray area
growth area
in the area of
no-go area
reception area
service area
surface area

AREA Defined for English Language Learners

area

noun

Definition of area for English Language Learners

: a part or section within a larger place
AREA Defined for Kids

area

noun | ar·ea | \'er-ë-ə

Definition of AREA for Students

1 : REGION 1 • a farming area

2 : the amount of surface included within limits • the area of a triangle

3 : a part of the surface of something

4 : a field of activity or study • the area of medicine

Medical Dictionary

area

noun | ar·ea | \'ar-ë-a, ˈer-

Medical Definition of AREA

: a part of the cerebral cortex having a particular function — see ASSOCIATION AREA, MOTOR AREA, SENSORY AREA

Learn More about AREA

See words that rhyme with area