Possible Solutions
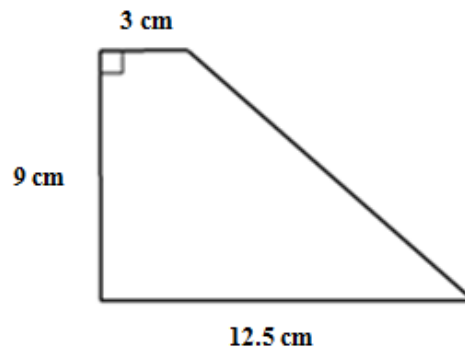
Look at the figure shown below. What is the area of the trapezoid shown below? Justify your thinking.

3 cm

9 cm

12.5 cm

To find the area of the trapezoid, students will need to follow these steps.

1. Identify the bases (parallel sides) and their measurements.
2. Add the two base measurements together: 12.5cm + 3cm = 15.5cm.
3. Multiply the sum by the height: 15.5cm x 9cm = 139.5 cm^2.
4. Multiply that amount by $\frac{1}{2}$: 139.5 cm x $\frac{1}{2}$ = 69.75 cm^2.
5. The area of the trapezoid is 69.75 cm^2.