little problems with big solutions

Shaded Rectangles

Ask students to complete the following:

- Draw a rectangle;
- Divide the sides of the height into 3 congruent line segments;
- Divide the sides of the base into 4 congruent line segments;
- Draw a line segment to each point in the rectangle from the point just below the top-left corner; and
- Shade every other section, starting at the top left and moving clockwise.

What fractions of Bryan's and Brenda's rectangles are shaded?

Bryan's Rectangle	Brenda's Rectangle

We encourage classroom teachers to pose this problem to your students and share their creative solutions. Please include a brief analysis of the specific strategy; examples of original student work or high-quality digital images; and your name, the school name and address, and your e-mail address. E-mail submissions to **Edward S. Mooney** at mooney@ilstu.edu, or send to him at Illinois State University, Campus Box 4520, Normal, IL 61790-4520, by **April 1**, **2012**. Published solutions will be credited.

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A total of 7/12 of both rectangles is shaded.