Arrays (page 1 of 2)
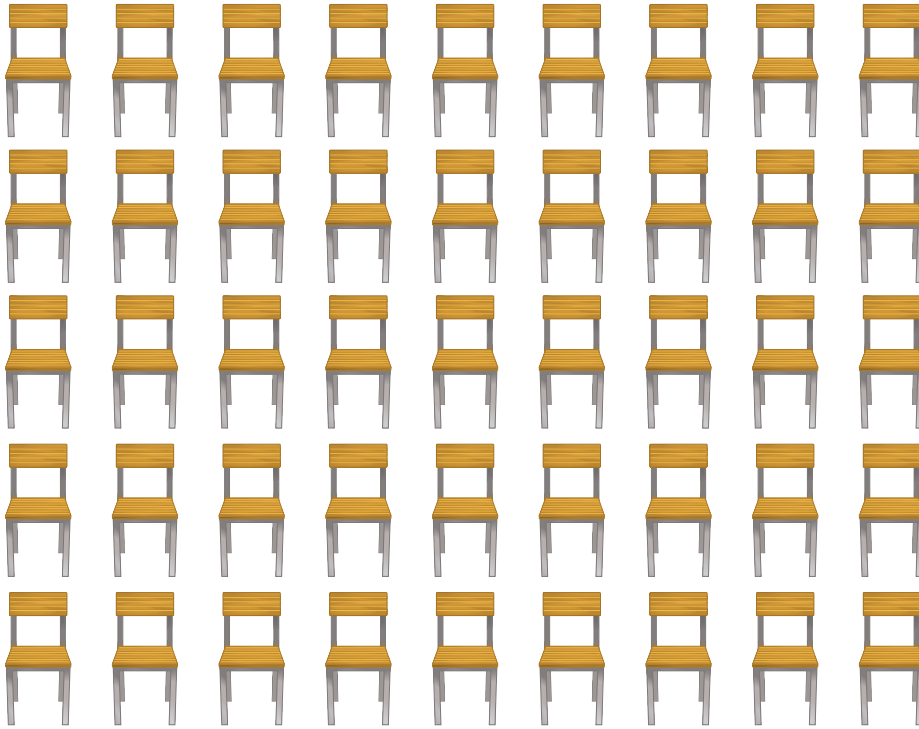
An array is one way to represent multiplication.
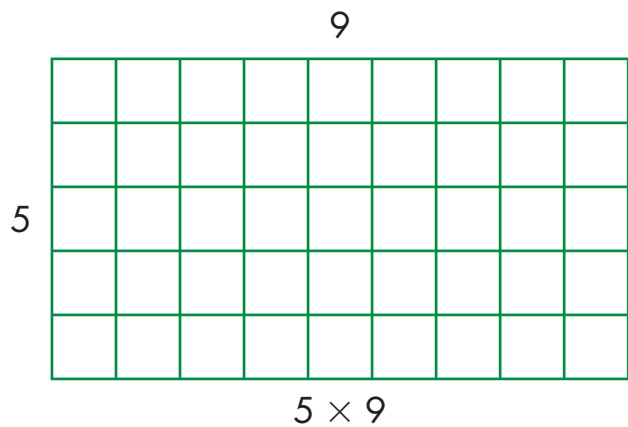
Here is an array of chairs.

There are 5 rows of chairs.

There are 9 chairs in each row.

The arrangement of chairs can be represented as a rectangle.

When we talk about the size of an array, we say that the dimensions are "5 by 9" (or "9 by 5," depending on how you are looking at the array).
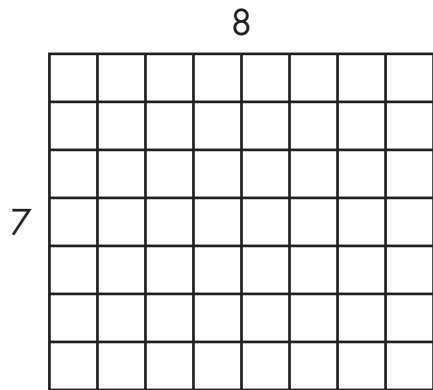

5×9

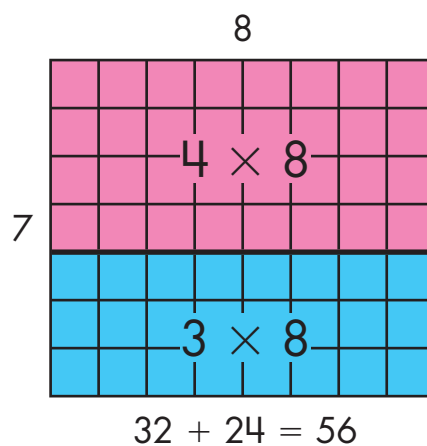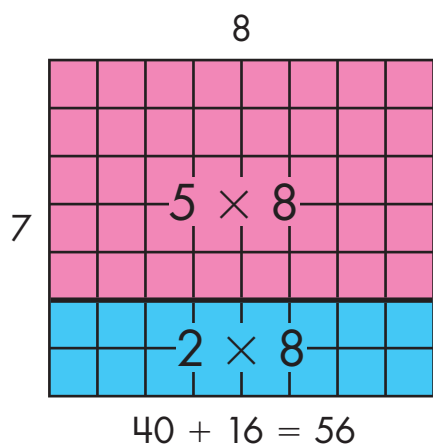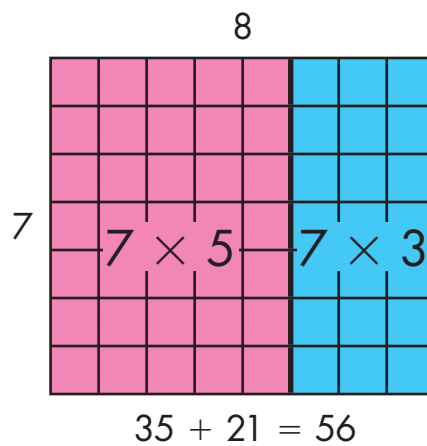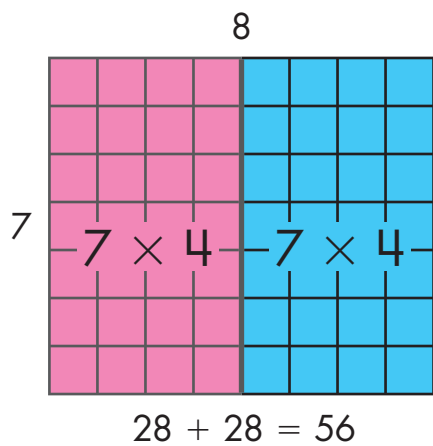**What are the dimensions of this array?**

Arrays (page 2 of 2)

Here are some examples of rectangular arrays that show how multiplication problems can be broken into smaller parts.

8

7

This 7 by 8 array can be broken into parts to find the product in many different ways.

8	8
7 7×4 7×4	7 7×5 7×3
$28 + 28 = 56$	$35 + 21 = 56$

8	8
7 5×8 2×8	7 4×8 3×8
$40 + 16 = 56$	$32 + 24 = 56$

All of these arrays show that the product of 7×8 is 56.