The Paddock Game

Math Concepts: Rectangle area, products of numbers 1-10
Materials: Graph paper, pencils, deck of playing cards
Players: 2 - 4

Set up: Each player gets a piece of graph paper and a pencil

Play: For a player's turn, use two random numbered playing cards from 1 to 10 to determine the dimensions of a rectangle. If a player's paper has room, the rectangle may be placed anywhere the rectangle's interior does not overlap with the interior of an existing rectangle. Once placed it cannot be moved, and its interior is lightly shaded and its area and dimensions are written on it. If there is no room, the turn is skipped.

Goal: The player with the largest total shaded area wins.

– DISCUSSION AND TIPS –

Discuss strategies for rectangle placement. Is it better to put a rectangle along the edges or in the middle?

– VARIATIONS –

For a normal piece of graph paper, this can be a long game – reduce the time by using half the paper or limiting the number of turns.