Activity 4

Objective

To verify the algebraic identity :

$(a - b)^2 = a^2 - 2ab + b^2$

Material Required

Drawing sheets, cardboard, coloured papers, scissors, ruler and adhesive.

Method of Construction

1. Cut out a square ABCD of side a units from a drawing sheet/cardboard [see Fig. 1].
2. Cut out a square EBHI of side b units ($b < a$) from a drawing sheet/cardboard [see Fig. 2].
3. Cut out a rectangle GDCJ of length a units and breadth b units from a drawing sheet/cardboard [see Fig. 3].
4. Cut out a rectangle IFJH of length a units and breadth b units from a drawing sheet/cardboard [see Fig. 4].

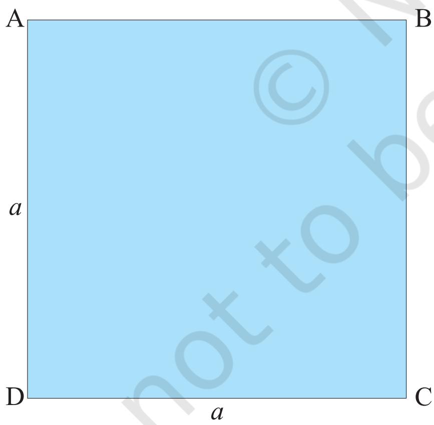

Fig. 1

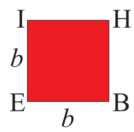

Fig. 2

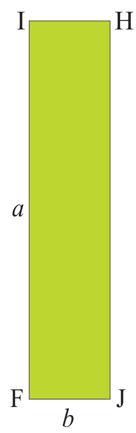

Fig. 4

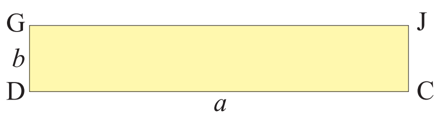

Fig. 3

5. Arrange these cut outs as shown in Fig. 5.

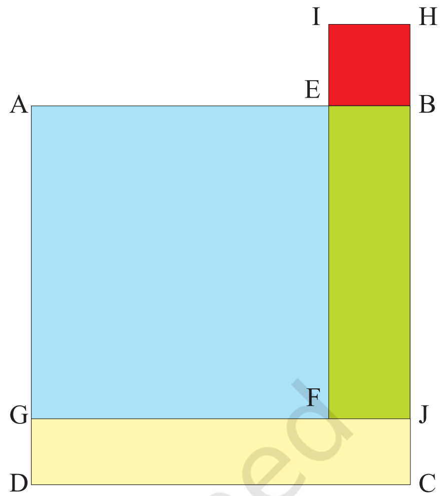

Fig. 5

Demonstration

According to figure 1, 2, 3, and 4, Area of square ABCD = a^2, Area of square EBHI = b^2

Area of rectangle GDCJ = ab, Area of rectangle IFJH = ab

From Fig. 5, area of square AGFE = AG × GF
$= (a - b)\,(a - b) \;= (a - b)^2$

Now, area of square AGFE = Area of square ABCD + Area of square EBHI

– Area of rectangle IFJH – Area of rectangle GDCJ

$= a^2 + b^2 - ab - ab$

$= a^2 - 2ab + b^2$

Here, area is in square units.

Observation

On actual measurement:

a = ..., b = ..., $(a - b)$ = ...,

So, a^2 = ..., b^2 = ..., $(a - b)^2$ = ...,

ab = ..., $2ab$ = ...

Therefore, $(a - b)^2 = a^2 - 2ab + b^2$

Application

The identity may be used for

1. calculating the square of a number expressed as a difference of two convenient numbers.
2. simplifying/factorisation of some algebraic expressions.