Learning Activity for Area Hysteria!
5th Grade

Objective: The students will be able to find the area and perimeter of rectangles.

Materials: graph paper, ruler, various rectangular shaped objects (CDs, VHS tapes, books, etc.)

Area Hysteria!

You've got a photo of Uncle Bill;
It sits in a frame on the window sill.
Inside is the area, outside it is not!
Take the frame around it, a perimeter you've got!
Hysteria, over area?
I think not!

You've got a "Plasma screen" upon the wall.
It's got a border that's wide and tall!
Inside is the area, outside it is not!
Take the frame around it, a perimeter you've got!
Hysteria, over area?
I think not!

(Bridge)
Bill's old picture is eight by ten.
Eighty square inches is a lot of him!
So, that plasma is fifty by twenty?
A thousand square inches... you've got plenty!
Kids: We've got plenty!

Two times width plus two times length,
gives the perimeter, true, I think!
Width times length and you've got the area.
I wonder how big is the country of Bulgaria?!?

Inside is the area, outside it is not!
Take the frame around it, a perimeter you've got!
Hysteria, over area?
I think not!
Hysteria, over area?
I think not!
Think not!

Procedure:

1) Play the song.
2) Students will draw on graph paper an 8 x 10 rectangle.
3) Teacher will discuss the difference between perimeter and area from the song, stressing that the area is the number of square units needed to cover the inside of the rectangle and the perimeter is the distance around the rectangle.
4) Listen to the song again. Students will identify the area and perimeter of the rectangle.
5) Students will work through the other example in the song with a partner.
6) Teacher will draw 2 more rectangles on the board for students to work.
7) Measuring activity. Students measure various rectangles to the nearest inch then find the area and perimeter of the rectangles.

Evaluation: Teacher observation while students are measuring the various rectangles to the nearest inch, then finding the area and perimeter to demonstrate an understanding of area and perimeter.
Extension: Give students the perimeter and area and have them find the dimensions.