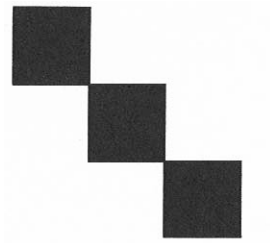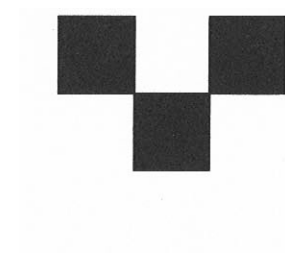Three squares can be
joined corner to corner

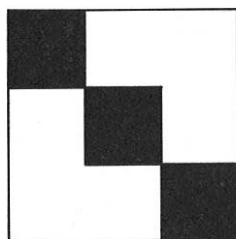like this: or like this:

and boxed in:

area = 9 squares   area = 6 squares

Join 4 squares corner to corner and find the areas of
rectangles that can be made.

Investigate for different numbers of squares.