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**Closed but provocative questions: curves enclosing unit area.**

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Summary: This article describes a task leading to work on curve sketching, simultaneous equations and integration to find the area enclosed between two curves. An initial closed question is used to confront students with a provocative answer, which they then explore in a much more open-ended way.

*Classification:* I50

*Keywords:* closed questions; integration; inverse problems; open questions; provocative questions; working backwards

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