

Quilts and Pioneers: **Design a Quilt Block**

Grade: Elementary/Middle School

Purpose/Objective: Students will understand what quilts are, what they are used for, and how they are made. Students will understand how they are an important part of pioneering heritage and history.

Lesson Plan:

[Use Teacher Resource Information: Quilting]

1. Introduction (Story): Begin by reading a story about quilts and their importance in pioneer heritage. Two picture books that cover this topic well are:
 - a. *The Quilt Story* by Tony Johnston and Tomie dePaola
 - b. *Papa and the Pioneer Quilt* by Jean Van Leeuwen
 - i. Sample Discussion Questions (concerning books):
 1. Why did people make quilts?
 2. What did they use for their quilts?
 3. How could a quilt tell a story?
 4. Are there any quilts in your family that have been passed down through the generations?
2. Explain why quilts were important and how they are made. The traditional quilt block patterns included are just to show students what type of patterns are used. Encourage students to put some thought and effort into designing a quilt block that is meaningful to them and one that could be reproduced on a quilt.
3. Activity 1: Have students complete the Design a Quilt Block worksheet. Students may color the blocks or use magazine pages to design the blocks.

Standards: SS 4.2.2, 7.2.3

Use in Classroom: Social Studies, Art

Design a Quilt Block

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Design a quilt block using the boxes below. Remember that often times certain patterns meant something special and the fabric used often conveyed a story. Use your imagination and design a quilt block that means something to you or tells a story.
