

Teacher Resource Information:

Quilting

History/Background Information

Quilts were an important part of pioneer women's lives. Quilting was often one of the first skills women taught their daughters and quilted pieced blocks became important needlework projects. Quilted patterns that were pieced required the quilter to have good "geometric sense" to work out the complicated designs. The designs or patterns used for quilts varied, however, some patterns were used over and over again and became "traditional" patterns.

Pioneer women often lived in the countryside and were isolated from each other. They had a lot to do which left them with little time to socialize. Quilts were often made during the winter months when women spent a lot of time indoors. Quilting bees, held in the spring, offered another time for women to finish their quilts. Women would gather together to finish a quilt. By having more women work on each quilt, the work got done quicker. Quilting bees were also an acceptable social party and provided women a good time to socialize.

Quilts often passed down family history. No piece of worn out clothing would go to waste, and old clothes would be used for the pieced quilts. Stories associated with certain items of clothing, such as a war jacket, grandma's wedding dress, etc., would then be preserved in the quilts.

Quilting Process

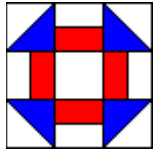
To many people a quilt is merely a bed cover, but quilting is the term for the process or technique for padding layers of fabric together (to make the quilt).

- **Quilt Patches:** A patchwork quilt is made of patches of cloth cut in different shapes and sizes.
- **Quilt Blocks:** The patches are sewn together to make a pattern. There are many different quilt block patterns.
- **Quilt Top:** The quilt blocks are then sewn together to make a quilt top.
- **Three Layers:** After the quilt top is made, a layer of cotton, called batting, is placed underneath to make the quilt soft and fluffy. Then a large piece of cloth, the quilt lining, is placed underneath the batting.
- **Quilting:** Last of all, very small stitches are made around each part of the design through all three layers. This is called quilting.

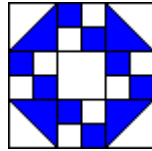
Note: There are many different patterns, the block used for the Design a Quilt Block activity is a nine-patch, but there are four patch, five patch, etc.

Following are examples of traditional quilt patterns, including nine patch, four patch, five patch, seven patch, and other blocks.

Nine Patch Blocks

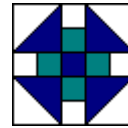


Churn Dash



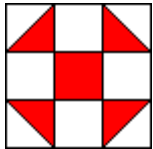
True Blue

Five Patch Blocks

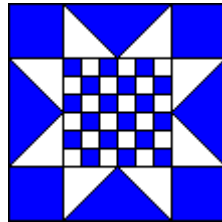


Monkey Wrench

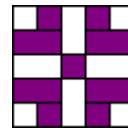
Four Patch Blocks



Shoo Fly

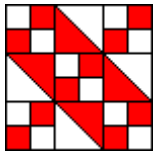


Grandmother's Quilt

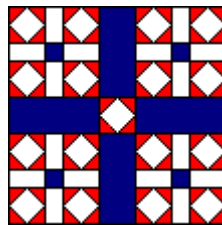


Double V

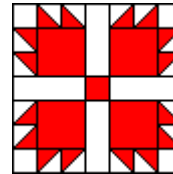
Seven Patch Blocks



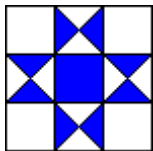
Jacob's Ladder



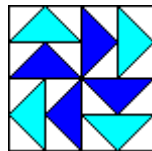
Economy



Bear Paw

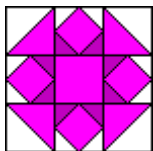


Ohio Star

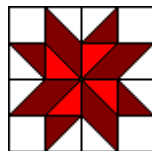


Dutchman's Puzzle

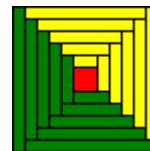
Other Blocks



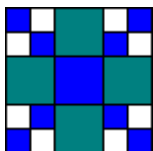
Hidden Star



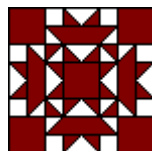
Pieced Star



Log Cabin



Thrifty



Star



Irish Chain