



**MAKE ART
ANYWAY.**

ART ACTIVITY
INSTRUCTIONS:

PAPER QUILTS

@ARTSCORPS

#MAKEARTANYWAY

PAPER QUILTS

Discipline: Visual Arts

Duration: 30 minutes or longer

Age Range: Grades 3 and up

Creator: Carina A. del Rosario

Contact:
integration@artscorps.org

Materials:

Papers (plain, patterned, recycled magazines & envelopes, drawings and paintings)

Scissors

Glue

Ruler (or straight edge)

Vocabulary:

Textures

Pattern

Symmetry

Contrast

Being resourceful is the most important part of art: How can you take something ordinary and make something new and beautiful? You'll take the papers that were piling up, waiting to be recycled and create a paper quilt square that can be turned into a note card or a coaster. If you make a bunch, you can arrange them together to make a larger paper quilt.

Learning Goals:

- You will learn about Gee's Bend quilters and how they turned worn-out rags into quilts that were useful, meaningful, and beautiful.
- You will learn about traditional quilt patterns.
- You will learn how to use shapes, colors, and textures, and also contrast, pattern, and symmetry.

Activity Opening:

Look at the picture below of one of Nellie Mae Abrams' quilts.



What do you notice? *What else do you notice?*

Nellie Mae Abrams learned how to quilt from her mother, Annie Mae Young, who was part of a whole group of quilters from a small, remote place called Gee's Bend in Alabama. You can see more of Ms. Abrams and other quilters' work at:

<https://www.soulsgrounddeep.org/gees-bend-quiltmakers>

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#CreativeSolidarity

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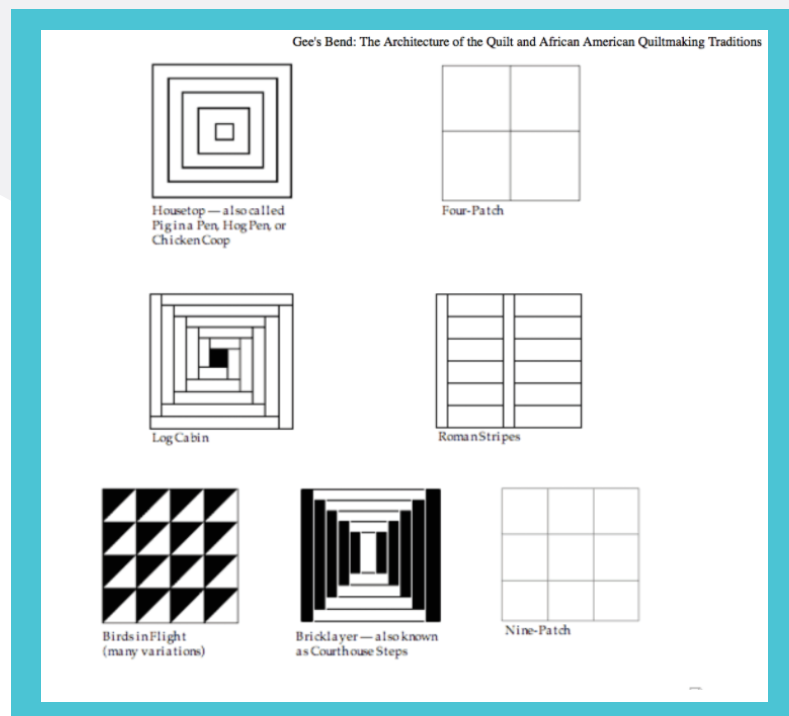
Notice that Ms. Abrams and the other quilters all used shapes cut out of different fabrics. They are arranged so that:

- they alternate between light and dark colors
- some are solid and some are printed
- the shapes form a pattern.

They also have a sense of symmetry so that one side is similar to the opposite side. Sometimes the symmetry isn't exact, but that makes them even more interesting.

Steps/Instructions:

1. Take a piece of plain paper and make it square (meaning all sides are equal). If you don't have a ruler to measure that all sides are equal, take one corner of your paper and fold it diagonally so the top edge lines up with the side edge. Cut the paper so you end up with one rectangle piece and a folded triangle. Unfold the triangle and now you have a square paper.
2. Look at your recycled papers. Choose three (maybe four) that you want to use. They should be a mix of light and dark, solid colors and printed/patterned.
3. Think about your design. You can choose among traditional patterns, or make up your own as long as the design has pattern and symmetry.



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4. Cut your recycled papers into shapes that match your design.

5. Arrange your cut shapes onto your square paper, then glue them down. Make sure that all the edges are glued down.

6. Fill your square with your cut shapes to make a paper quilt square.

Activity Closing: Now What?

- Make 1, 2 or 3 more quilt squares using the same recycled papers. You can use the same design or try a different one, just as long as you use the same papers. Glue them all together onto a larger piece of paper.
- Take a large plain paper and fold it in half. Glue your quilt square onto the front flap (cover) to make a note card. Write a thank you note to a grocery worker and give it to them the next time your parent is at the store.

**CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO
VERSION OF THIS LESSON.**

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