

Explore history and create beautiful works of art with quilt block designs and paper mosaics printed in traditional fabric patterns! This package contains:

- 6 reproducible quilt block designs to be replicated as often as needed
- 1440 mosaics in five color themes of red, blue, orange, green and yellow: each theme includes five fabric patterns and a solid color. Mosaics come in squares and triangles of 1-1/4"
- Exclusively for S&S Worldwide customers, a poster containing all six quilt block designs for classroom projects or a larger, more dramatic work of art!

History of Quilting

The art of quilting can be traced throughout the history of North America and Europe, and in fact may date back to ancient Egypt (around 3500 BC). Because fabric is delicate, it has not withstood the centuries. Ancient examples of quilts only exist in other forms of art, such as carvings or sculptures.

The origin of the term 'quilt' comes from a Latin word that means 'stuffed sack.' A quilt is quite literally a bedcovering stitched in three layers. The top is typically the decorative patchwork pattern we recognize. The bottom, or 'back,' is often a neutral solid color. The 'stuffing' in the middle is what makes a quilt a warm and cozy covering for beds! The stitching of the layers can be as artful as the piecing of the blocks, and it is the stitching that keeps the three layers together. Throughout history and all parts of the world, people have stitched together padding and fabric for warm bedding and clothing.

The Industrial Revolution of the late 18th and early 19th centuries fueled the practical art of quilt making. The textile industry blossomed. Commercially-made fabric was affordable and readily available to most families. Women no longer needed to spin and weave their own fabric to clothe their families. By 1840, the piecing of fabric to create beautiful patchwork quilts had become as much an art form as a practical household need. Quilting remains a popular hobby and an artful expression even today!

Group Ideas

Allow crafters to explore the beauty of quilt-making through the patterns and mosaic pieces. Encourage coordinated color themes, or allow students to create a patchwork 'crazy quilt' on their own! Talk about the utilitarian need for 'crazy quilts' made from leftover fabric and old clothing by our pioneers, as well as the artistry of creating colorful patterns on the quilt blocks.

Make a giant patchwork quilt by affixing all the quilt blocks to a wall in a pattern, creating a classroom art project!

Consider inviting a quilter to speak to the group about the art of quilting to encourage the exploration of history and inter-generational play. Students might bring examples of quilts from home that were done by grandmothers or great-grandmothers long ago.

Use the enclosed poster to highlight each of the six quilt block patterns available! Consider laminating the poster and changing the quilt block patterns regularly for an ever-evolving work of art. Re-create the poster to reflect seasons (red / green blocks at Christmas for example), or match the block patterns selected and created by individual students.

Project benefits include hand-eye coordination, patterning, the introduction of the concepts of geometry, and the development of fine motor skills. Broader benefits include the exploration of history, nostalgia and inter-generational activities. Quilt Square Mosaics also make a perfect art project for Senior Centers and Senior Living Facilities.