A Common Thread
Multicultural Quilts

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Quilting has long been popular in China, India, Iran, Egypt, and some areas of Africa. The origins presumably date back thousands of years. Layered fabrics were stitched together to add strength and warmth to the fabric. In addition to the practical value, quilting added a highly decorative value.

The Crusaders took quilting to Europe when they returned from Asia some 800 years ago. Quilting reached the status of a minor art in Europe in the 14th century. In Europe both clothing and bed coverings were quilted using fabrics, which included silks, cottons, velvets, brocades, and linens. Portions of one of the oldest quilts, made in Sicily around 1400, are preserved in Victoria and Albert Museum, London, and in the Barceló in Florence.

Many of the techniques developed in Europe and Asia made their way to the New World. Quilting blossomed and took on a new artistic expression. It was here that the block style was developed, repeating it in rows down and across a quilt. Names for the blocks were inspired by everyday life. The quilting bee provided an important social function for the community and often provided an opportunity for friends and neighbors to get together.

Many of these quilts were crazy quilts, patchwork with no particular pattern or design, made with fabric scraps of random size, shape, and color. Eventually, individualistic pioneers added designs that reflected their own taste, need and materials. Surviving quilts give evidence of the past styles, techniques and materials.

Just for fun:
1. Using the attached grid, work out a patchwork quilt design. Complete the design using patterns and designs from a wallpaper sample book.
2. Create and edible quilt block. Using a graham cracker, create a quilt block design. The design can be made using frosting, or use a quilting template and create the design with colored sugar.
3. Create a world quilt. Have each student do a quilt block using a technique from a different country. This provides a great opportunity to learn about diversity.
4. Give everyone the opportunity to take the completed quilt home as a guest for the night at the end of the project.
5. Do a storybook quilt. Using fabric crayons, have each student draw a picture about their favorite book.

Sources
The Standard Book of Quilt Making and Collecting
By Marguerite Ickis
The History of the Patchwork Quilt
By Schnuppe von Gwinner
Adinkra Cloth of Ghana
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Adinkra, which means “goodbye”, is traditionally worn in Ghana when guests are departing or at funeral services. Adinkra is also the name of the dye that is used for printing that comes from the Badie tree. The stamps are carved from a calabash with handles made from strong sticks. The stamp patterns have names, and refer to historic people, household objects or proverbs.

Adinkra printed on black, brown, red, or purple cloth is worn from the period from death to the burial. Adinkra on white is worn after the burial celebration.

Through the years, people have decorated clothes to tell a story as a means of self-expression of thoughts or feelings.

Activities:

Using a plastic knife cut a symbol or design in a gum eraser. Cut the eraser from around the design to give it a raised appearance. (Designs can be found at: http://www.theviproom.com/visions/adinkra.htm, http://www.marshall.edu/akanart/adinkracloth.html, http://www.welltempered.net/adinkra/htmls/adinkra_index.htm

Choose a neutral paper or piece of cloth. Fold or draw lines to divide your paper into squares. Using an inkpad, stamp your design onto the paper. (If you are using fabric, use permanent ink for stamping.)

Create a different stamp for each section of the paper. By alternating stamps, or using different stamps, it is possible to use the designs to tell a story.

Symbol of greatness, charisma and leadership.

Symbol of affluence, power, abundance, plenty, togetherness and unity.

Symbol of patience and tolerance.

Symbol of peace, calmness, spiritual coolness, and continuity.

Symbol of parental discipline, discipline, protection, parenthood, care and tenderness.
Leave time at the end of the project for each of the students to tell their story.

Additional ideas:

- Stamps can also be made by using craft foam. Cut selected design out of foam, mount foam on a small piece of wood to create a stamp.


- Cards: Site has cards ready to print. http://www.welltempered.net/adinkra/htmls/cards.htm

Resources:
Jo Miles Schuman “Art from Many Hands”
Geoffrey Williams, “African Designs from Traditional Sources”
Symbols: http://www.marshall.edu/akanart/adinkracloth.html
Symbols: www.theviproom.com/visions/adinkra.htm
Symbols: http://www.africawithin.com/tour/ghana/adinkra_symbols.htm

Symbol of service, leadership.
Symbol of life after death.
God’s protection and presence.
Symbol of commitment, perseverance.
Symbol of peace and harmony.
Symbol of humility together with strength.
Children’s Book List
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Quilting Books
Sam Johnson and the Blue Ribbon Quilt, by Lisa Campbell Ernst, Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, New York.
Shota and the Star Quilt, by Margaret Bateson-Hill, Anna McQuinn publisher.
Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt, by Deborah Hopkinson, Scholastic Books.
The Patchwork Path: a Quilt Map to Freedom, by Betty Stroud.
Freedom Fruit, by William H Hooks.
Under the Quilt of Night, by Deborah Hopkinson.
The Secret to Freedom, by Marcia Vaughan
Tar Beach, by Faith Ringgold, Scholastic Book.
The Keeping Quilt, by Patricia Polocco, Aladdin Picture Books.
The Patchwork Quilt, by Valerie Lowurnoy, Scholastic Books.
The Quiltmakers Gift, by Jeff Brumbeau & Gail de Marcken, Orchard Books, New York.
The Quiltmaker’s Journey, by Jeff Brumbeau Y Gail de Marcken, Orchard Books, New York.
The Quilt Story, by Tony Johnston and Tomie dePaola, Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers.
Wrapped in Memories, Nan Slaughter, Covenant Communications, Inc.
Tutu and the Ulu Tree, by Sandra L. Goforth, MnM Publishing.
Quilt of Dreams, by Mindy Dawyer, Alaska Northwest Books.

Hmong Flower Cloth:
Dia’s Story Cloth, the Hmong People’s Journey of Freedom, by Dia Cha, Denver Museum of Natural History.
Nine-In-One Grr! Grr! by Blia Xiong, Children’s Book Press.

Basket Weaving:
The Old Man and the Tree, Vicki Wisenfeld, Lion Children’s Books
Resources for Multicultural Quilting
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Utah State University/ Davis County

History on Quilting
http://www.womenfolk.com/historyofquilts/quiltmyth.htm
http://www.historyofquilts.com/colonial.html
http://www.suite101.com/print_article.cfm/quilts_and_quilting/21192
http://www.thomasmoresch.org/Undwerwood/quilts/quilts.htm
http://www.cranstonvillage.com/quilt/q-histor.htm

Books
http://users.crocker.com/~rebotis/subjects/quilts.html
http://www.thecraftstudio.com/qwc/barbarar.htm
http://ttsw.com/FAQS/BooksChildrenFAQ.html
http://infohost.nmt.edu/~breynold/quiltfiction_kids.html
http://www.socialstudies.esmartweb.com/HTMLbibls/Quiltsbib.htm
http://www.thecraftstudio.com/qwc/barbara.htm
http://www.learnnc.org/learnnc/lessonp.nsf/docUNID/
http://www.si.edu/resource/faq/nami/quilts.htm
http://www.quilt-books.com/history.shtml
http://www.quiltmakersgift.com/art.html
http://www.scils.rutgers.edu/~kvander/books/MEESKE.pdf (Quilt Me A Story)
http://www.welltempered.net/adinkra/htmls/adinkra_bibliography.htm (books on Adinkra cloth)

Star Quilts
http://www.bluecloud.org/morningstar.html
http://www.historyofquilts.com/lonestar.html
http://www.womenfolk.com/historyofquilts/prqueen.htm

African American Quilts
http://www.straw.com/quilting/articles/africamer.html
http://xroads.virginia.edu/~UG97/quilt/bond.html
http://www.bampfa.berkeley.edu/exhibits/Tompkins/leon.html
Adinkra Cloth/ Africa
http://www.pbs.org/wonders/Kids/cloth/cloth.htm
http://cat.connoll.edu/projects/adinkra/history.htm
http://www.du.edu/duma/africloth/adinkra.html
http://www.marshall.edu/akanart/adinkracloth.html
http://www.du.edu/duma/africloth/adinkra.make.htm.  (how Adinkra cloth is made)
http://www.hawaii.edu/hga/Lessons/Africa/adinkCLO.html  (lesson plan)
http://www.bu.edu/africa/outreach/materials/handouts/crafts.html  (lesson Plan)
http://www.africawithin.com/tour/ghanadinkra_symbols.htm (symbols)
http://www.mala.bc.ca/www/discover/educate/posters/lorenam.htm
http://www.adire.clara.net/bogolanintroduction.htm  (Mud Cloth)
http://www.peaknet.org/webpages/quilt/row3.html  (Kente Cloth)

Hawaiian Quilts
http://www.historyofquilts.com/hawaiian.html
http://www.nvo.com/poakalani/historyofhawaiianquilting/
http://museum.cl.msu.edu/glqc/collections_special_indhaw.html
http://www.nvo.com/poakalani/fawaboutus1/  (stories)
Molas:
http://www.panart.com/molainfo.htm
http://www.crossroadstrade.com/molas.php
http://www.nmai.si.edu/exhibitions/the_art_of_being_kuna/
(Molas-great interactive web site)

Hmong & Thailand
http://www.kidscoop.com/resources/thailand.html (teachers guide)
http://www.csupomona.edu/~tassi/hmong.htm
http://www.quiltethnic.com/hmong.html
http://www.newint.org/issue344/currents.htm
http://www.pbs.org/splithorn/hmong.html
http://www.lib.uci.edu/libraries/collections/sea/hmong.html (lesson plan)
http://www.hmongnet.org/culture/pandau.html
http://home.cinci.rr.com/patkers/vietdia.html
http://www.quiltethnic.com/hmong.html
http://www.quiltingarts.com/qamag/treasures.html (project sheet)

Heritage Quilts
http://www.womenfolk.com/grandmothers/terigran.htm
http://www.rebeccasreads.com/reviews/06his/06crom61.html
http://www2.tcu.edu/depts/prs/amwest/html/w10029.html
http://eastern.edu/publications/emme/1999summer/cohen.html
http://edsitement.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?ID=242
http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qn4188/is_20030417/ai_n11391071#continue (Deseret News article on the Mormon Quilt Walk)
http://www.eastern.edu/publications/emme/1999summer/cohen.html (oral history quilts)
http://fp.uni.edu/iowaonline/prairievoices/images/Folklife_Guide.pdf (Folklife lesson plan)
http://www.victorianaquiltdesigns.com/VictorianaQuilters/VicQuilters.htm (quilt labels and designs)

Japanese Quilting
http://www.bettegant.com/sashiko.html
http://quilting.miningco.com/library/weekly/aa06397.htm
http://www.ttsw.com/FAQS/SashikoFAQ.html
http://www.kateryndedeevelyn.org/qultjapc.htm
Chinese Quilting
http://www.myjourneyhome.com/nov2001dtc/quilting.htm (100 Wishes Quilting Project)
http://www.quiltehtnic.com/chinese.html
http://www.originalquilts.com/100_good_wishes_quilts.html (more 100 Wishes Quilts)
http://www.whps.org/school/smith/Projects%20&%20Programs/alphabet/books/isabel/alphaisabel.htm (China Alphabet Book)
http://www.esltteachersboard.com/cgi-bin/language/index.pl?index=0?read=1031#1031 (Chinese translation)
http://www.enchantedlearning.com/school/China/numbers/Writenumbers.shtml (Learn to write numbers in Chinese)
http://www.dltk-kids.com/world/china/ (Crafts for children)
http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/chinesenewyear/ (Crafts for children)

Trapunto
http://www.rubberstampsclub.com/tips/paper-trapunto.html (paper trapunto)

Amish Quilts
http://quilting.minigco.com/library/weekly/aa030997.htm
http://www.goshen.edu/mqr/pastissues/apr05born.html (Mennonite)

Weaving and Textiles
http://invention.smithsonian.org/centerpieces/whole_cloth/u3tc/index.html (dyeing fabrics lesson plan- Smithsonian)
http://www.si.edu/resource/faq/nmah/antqtest.htm (storing antique textiles)
http://www.princetonol.com/groups/jad/lessons/middle/textiles.htm (history of textiles)
http://www.42explore.com/weave.htm (weaving links)
http://www.faculty.de.gcsu.edu/~dvess/ids/fap/weav/html (Art and History)
http://www.si.edu/resource/faq/nmai/navweav.htm (Books about Navajo Weaving)

Batik
http://www.collectorsguide.com/fa/fa062.shtml
http://www.batikrahmawati.com/bh.htm
http://www.texteiles.org.nz/dylon/batikhowto.html (how to)
http://www.balifab.com/MAIN%20PGS/historybatik.html (history)
http://www.chinavoc.com/arts/folk/batik.htm (batik from China)
Resource:
African Folktales, retold by A. Ceni, Barnes and Nobel Books
Contemporary Hawaiian Quilting, by Linda Arthur, Island Heritage Publishing.
Hands-On Celebrations, by Yvonne Y. Merrill, published by K/ITS.
Menehune Quilts...The Hawaiian Way, by Elizabeth Root.
Quilts a Beautiful History, by Zaro Weil. MQ Publications.
Quilting the World Over, by Willow Ann Soltow, Chilton Book Company.
Traditional Native American Arts & Activities, by Arlette N. Branman, John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
A Common Thread

Strategies for teaching youth diversity.

Please evaluate this class by circling the appropriate number:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Superior</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The quality of the teaching materials</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presenter’s knowledge about the topic</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation of the presenter</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Did you learn anything in the class about:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Gave me considerable new information</th>
<th>Gave me some new information</th>
<th>Reinforced what already knew</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>…multicultural quilting</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>…using books to teach quilting/ diversity</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>…resources for multicultural quilting</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>…we are more alike than different</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>…multicultural quilting can be taught through small projects</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>…quilting can be used to teach about nearly any culture</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After today, will you…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Almost always</th>
<th>Often</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Almost never</th>
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<td>… more likely to look for different ways to incorporate diversity</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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Comments, questions, profound statements:

My favorite idea was: