

Explore new worlds book by book!
Read **QUILT OF DREAMS** by Mindy Dwyer and try these activities
designed for grades K-4!

History

1. Ask questions-

With permission from your family, bring quilts from home to share with the class. What is the pattern? Who made the quilt? Who was the quilt made for and why? Is there a story behind the quilt that you know of? Make up a story to go with the pattern or the quilt maker.

Creative Writing

1. Invent a story-

How do you think the traditional quilt patterns got their names? Use the following names of patterns to invent a story behind a quilt.

Around The Chimney, Avalanche Lily, Bear Paw, Birds In The Air, Broken Dishes, Evening Star, Goosetracks, Hit Or Miss, Honeycomb, Log Cabin, Love Knot, Lucky Star, Magic Circle, Northern Lights, Road To California, Shoo-Fly, Shooting Star, Snake Fence, Steps To The Altar, Turtle On A Quilt, Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star, Twist and Turn, Whirligig and Yankee Puzzle.

2. Write-

Imagine a fairy tale about the crane scissors in the book:

Perhaps the scissors are magic; what if they were once a real bird turned into gold by a magic spell; or everything that the scissors cut contains magic.

See if anyone in class has ever seen scissors like that, maybe someone's mom has them in her sewing box and can bring them to class to share with your fairytale.

Resources

Check out these sites for more books by Mindy Dwyer and for information on quilting:

www.gacpc.com and www.sasquatchbooks.com

Archive of American Patchwork Quilt Designs

<http://music.acu.edu/www.iawm/pages/quilts>

Speaking of Quilts; Voices from the Late Twentieth Century

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/qilthtml/qiltov.html>

Hardbound, 10 1/4" x 8 5/8"
ISBN 0-88240-522-5, \$15.95
Softbound, 10 x 8 3/8"
ISBN 0-88240-521-7, \$8.95
32 pages, 20 color illustrations
Ages 7 and up

ALSO BY MINDY DWYER:
**AURORA—A TALE OF THE
NORTHERN LIGHTS**

Hardbound, 10 1/4" x 8 5/8"
ISBN 0-88240-494-6, \$15.95
32 pages, 16 color illustrations
Ages 3 and up

COYOTE IN LOVE

Hardbound, 8 5/8" x 10 1/4"
ISBN 0-88240-485-7, \$15.95
32 pages, 16 color illustrations
Ages 3 and up

Math

SKILLS- fractions, exploring geometry, spatial problem solving, patterning

1. Look at a sample quilt-

How many squares are there in a quilt? Is the design symmetric? Is there a pattern in the color? The shape? What shapes are used? Squares? Triangles? How many triangles make a square?

2. Folding-

An ancient technique for easy measuring and for creating fractions is simply folding. Fold a piece of paper carefully matching the corners into a triangle. Trim off the excess to make a perfect square. Now fold the square in half and then half again. You should have fourths. Fold the square on each diagonal. How many shapes do you have now? Fold your paper to make halves, fourths, (Four Square Patch) and sixteenths. Now try and fold a piece of paper into thirds, then ninths, (Nine Square Patch).

3. Measuring-

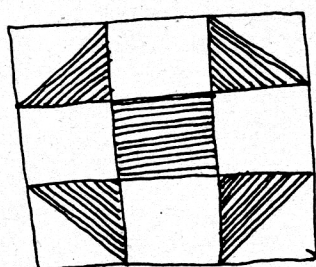
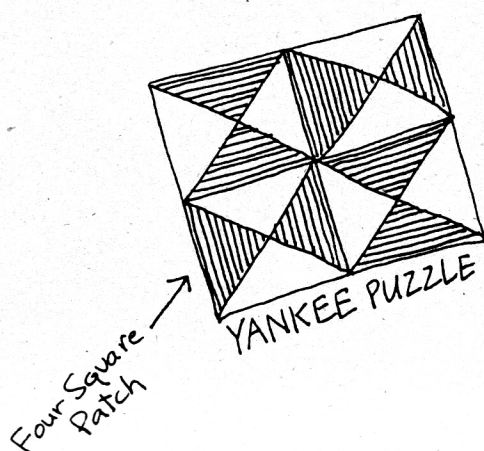
How do you find the center of a square without a ruler? Fold it in half and in half again. Fold and cut out a smaller perfect square. Can you place a smaller square in the middle of this square? Exactly in the middle? Fold the square on the diagonal both ways. Now, place the smaller square on top lining up all of the points of the corners on the folds of the paper. Now it is centered.

4. Add/Subtract/Multiply/Divide-

How many students are in your class? If each student made one quilt square how would you design your quilt? How many in each row across? How many in each row down? If each child made a four square patch, how many squares in all would the quilt be?

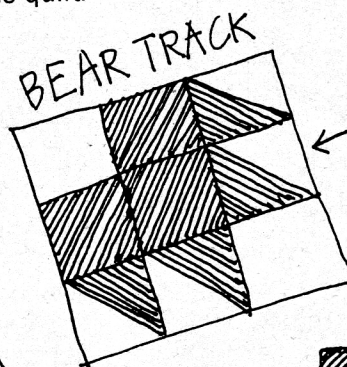
5. Fractions, geometry, patterns-

Using the folding method, fold and cut two pieces of contrasting construction paper into squares and triangles, stacking the colors and shapes on the desk. On a third piece of construction paper, arrange the shapes into the patterns below and then make up some of your own. Write fractions to show how many of each color you used. Using your patterns as a color-coded design, make a class quilt with wrapping papers instead of construction paper and glue it all together on a big piece of rolled butcher paper. Have a class discussion on the math that was used to make this quilt.

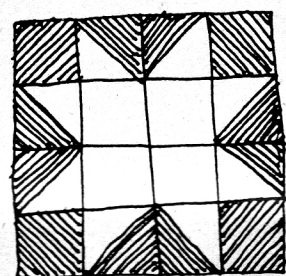


$\frac{6}{18}$ BLACK TRIANGLES OR $\frac{1}{3}$

$\frac{12}{18}$ WHITE TRIANGLES OR $\frac{4}{6}$ OR $\frac{2}{3}$



← Nine Square Patch

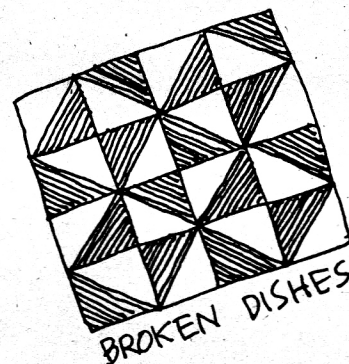


6. A Cookie Recipe—"Celebrate the snow with tea and sweets!"

Snickerdoodles-

Mix together;
1 cup shortening
1 ½ cup sugar
2 eggs

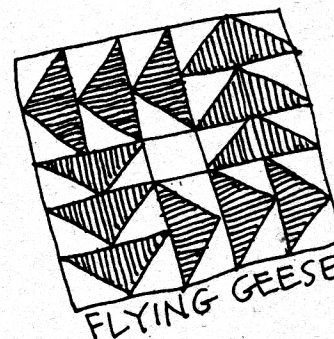
Sift together;
2 ¾ cups flour
2 tsp cream of tartar
1 tsp soda
¼ tsp salt



Stir the two mixtures together. Roll into balls the size of walnuts. Dip into equal parts sugar and cinnamon. Place two inches apart on a lightly greased baking sheet. Bake until lightly browned but still soft (8-10 minutes) at 400 degrees. Makes three dozen cookies.

Calculate-

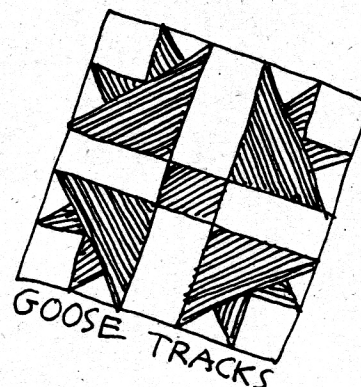
How many is three dozen? How many students are in the class? How many cookies will each student get? Double your recipe and write down the amounts with the fractions. Now, how many cookies will each student get? How many teaspoons in a cup? How many teaspoons in a tablespoon? How much is two fourths of a cup? How much is 2 and three quarters cups times two?



Literature

Read and curl up with quilts that you brought from home.

Quiltmaker's Gift by Jeff Brumbeau
The Keeping Quilt by Patricia Polacco
The Quilt by Ann Jonas
Lukas Quilt by Georgia Guback
The Mountains of Quilt by Nancy Willard
The Canada Geese Quilt by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock
Selina and the Bear Paw Quilt by Barbara Smucke,
The Promise Quilt by Candice F. Ranso,
Quilting Now and Then by Karen B. Willing
The Crazy Quilt by Kristen Avery
The Log Cabin Quilt by Ellen Howard
Eight Hands Round, A Patchwork Alphabet by Ann Whitford Paul
Sweet Clara and The Freedom Quilt by Deborah Hopkinson
Quilt of Dreams by Mindy Dwyer





Crafts

1. Crazy quilts-

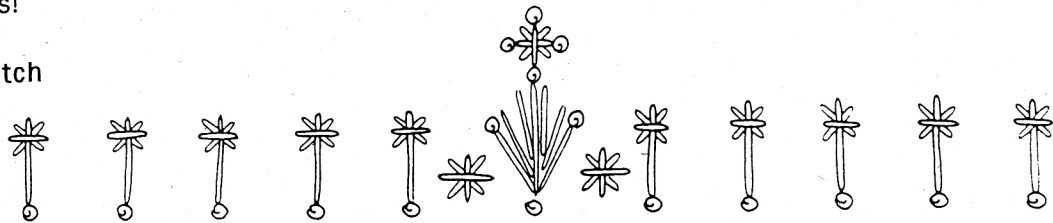
Sometimes thought of as friendship quilts, crazy quilts were made to remember happy times. They were the first quilts that were stitched purely for the sake of being beautiful and not just functional. They were decorative! Fancy stitches adorn the pieces of fabric and often the names of the friends are stitched right on the quilt.

Students could bring one piece of wrapping paper from home and as a small group share the papers, assembling them together in crazy quilts, cutting and piecing crazy shapes. Use a sharpie marker or gel pen to copy the fancy stitches on your paper quilt.

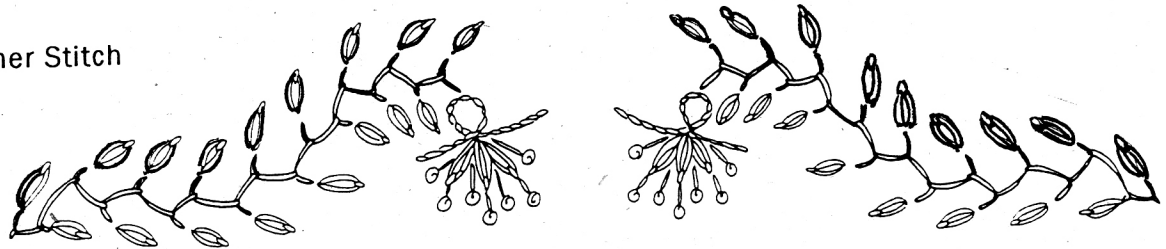
2. Stitching-

These old-fashioned stitches will look really cool sewn with colorful embroidery thread on your jeans!

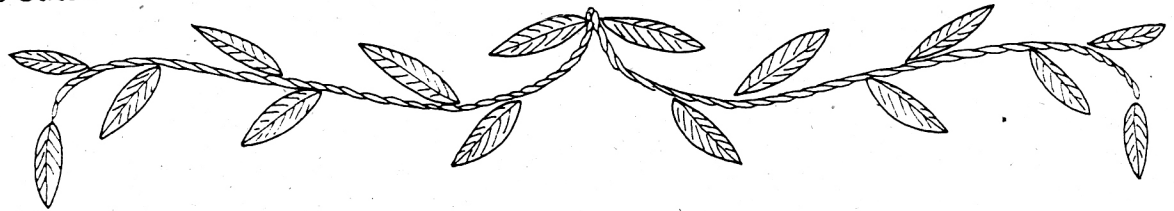
Cross-stitch



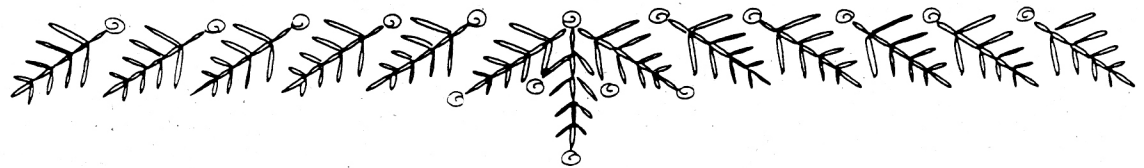
Feather Stitch



Fishbone Stitch



Fern Stitch

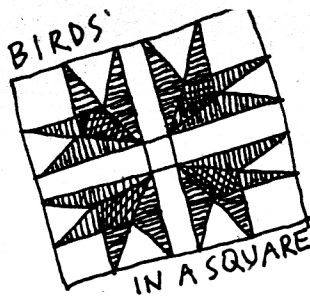


Running Stitch



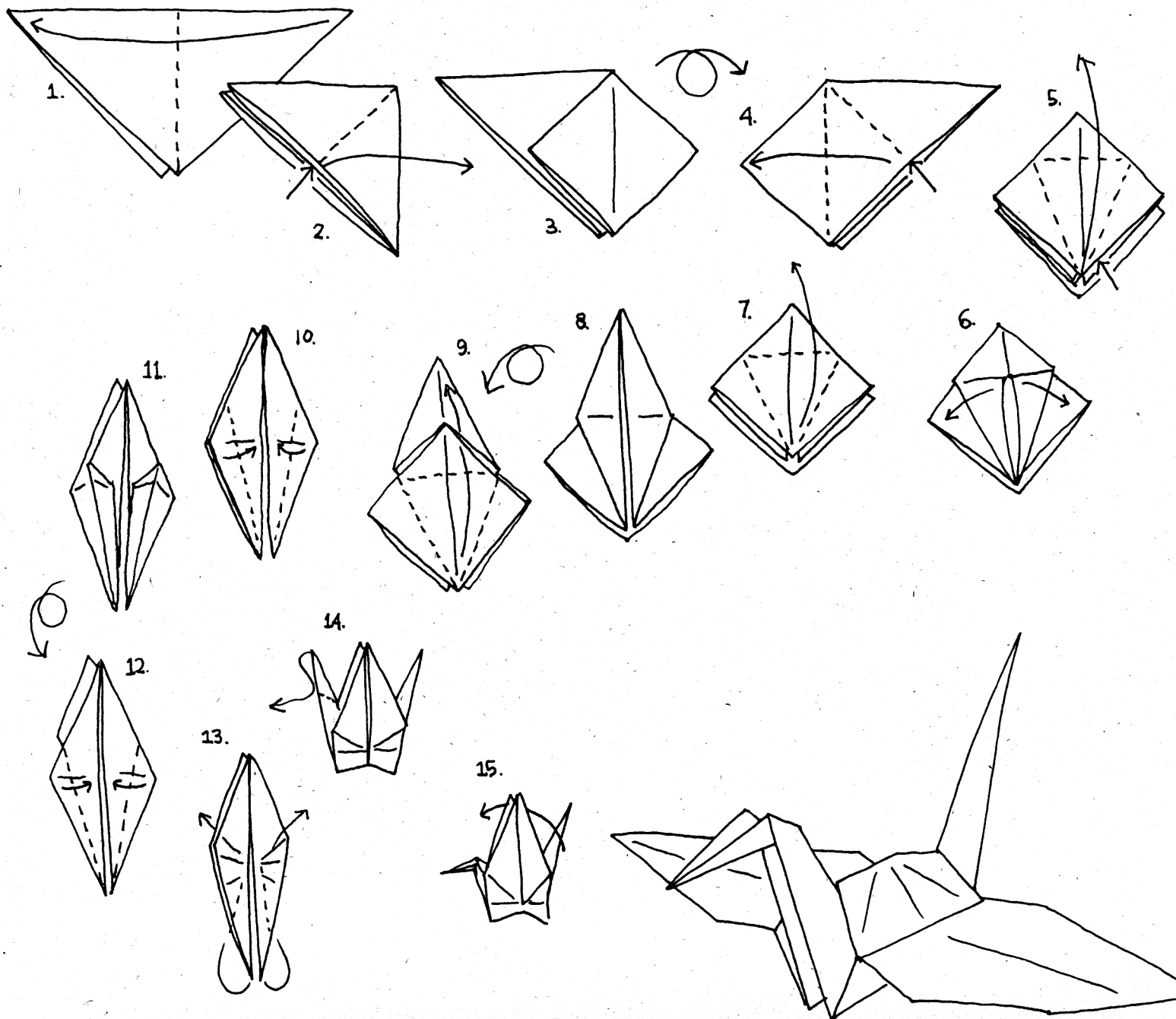
Herringbone Stitch

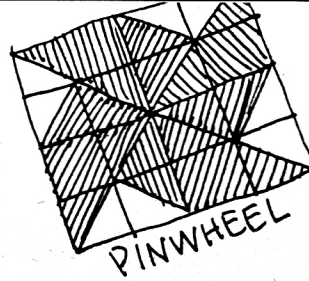




3. Origami- With the magic found only in dreams, Katy's quilt squares folded and flew out the window as real cranes!

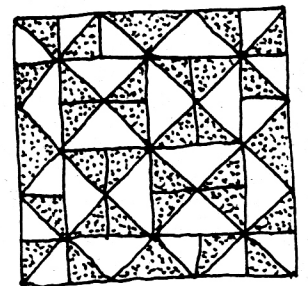
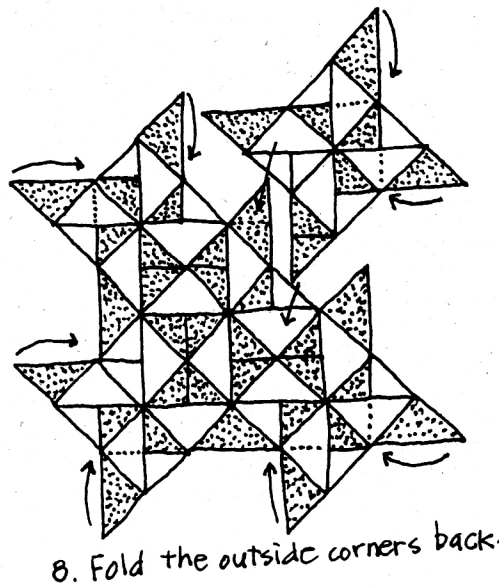
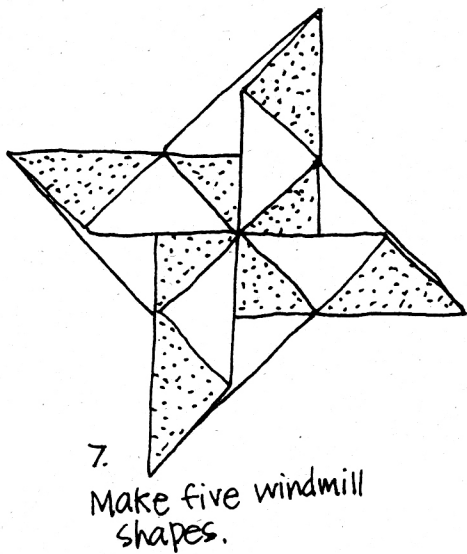
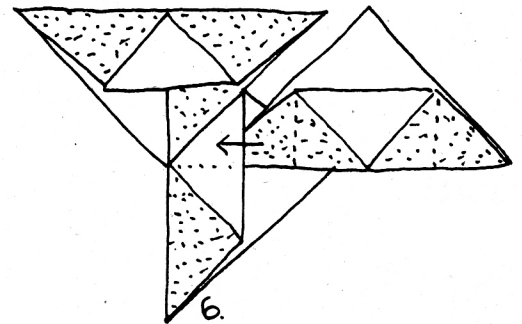
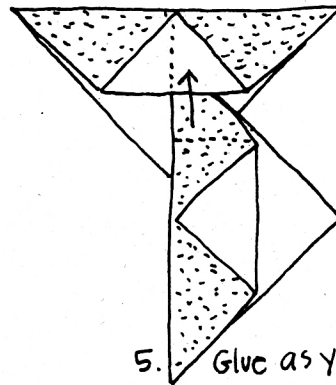
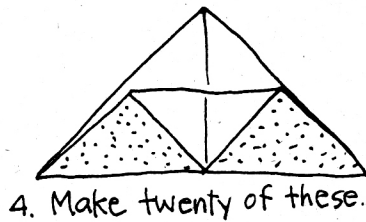
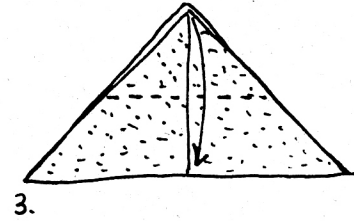
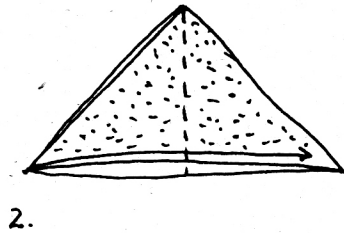
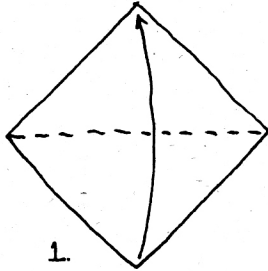
Learn to fold a paper crane.





4. Paper Patchwork Quilt-

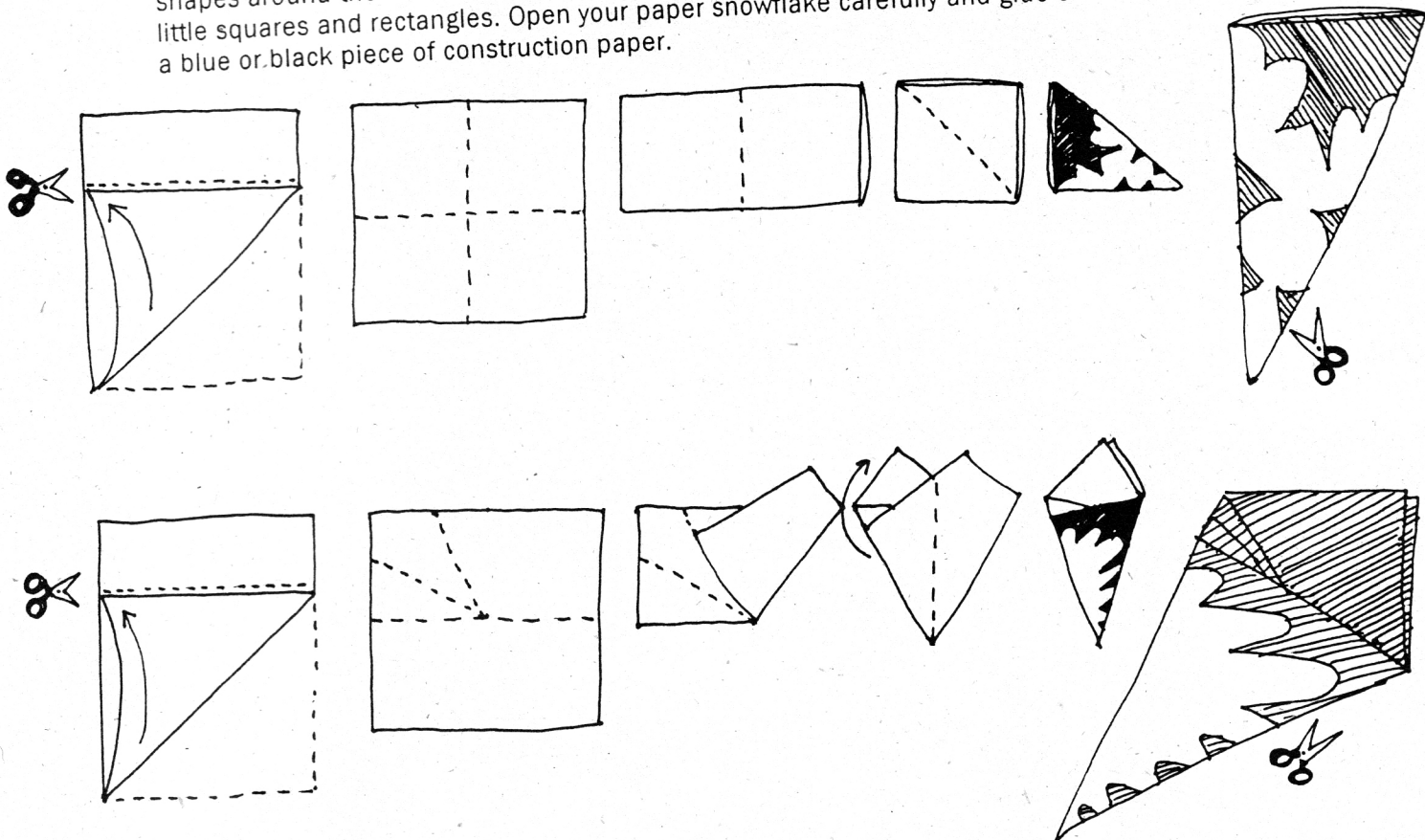
You will need twenty pieces of origami paper that is two-sided, or paper with each side having a different color. This is fun to make with a group of students.



Art and Writing

1. Paper snowflakes-"No two are exactly alike!"

Using the folding techniques you learned in the math section, fold a piece of white paper diagonally, cut off the excess to make it an even square. Now fold the square in half and half diagonally, cut off the excess to make it an even square. Now fold the square in half and half diagonally. Hold your finger on the centerfold of your triangle and cut shapes out of the triangle, half circles, triangles, little squares and rectangles. Open your paper snowflake carefully and glue or laminate onto a blue or black piece of construction paper.

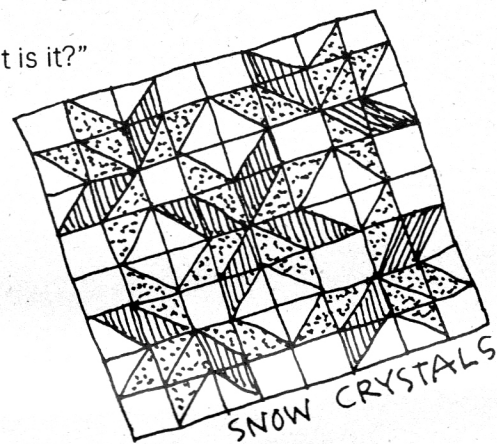


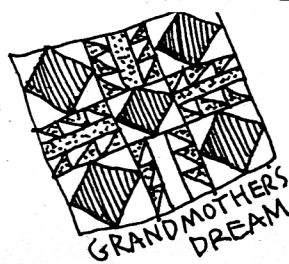
2. Poetry-

This 4-5 line poem takes the natural shape of a diamond.
Mount and display with the cut out snowflake
(think of a one word title-a noun-write a synonym)
(two words-adjective or describing words)
(three words-adverb -ing words)
(four or more words to show us what the noun does)
(one word- title)

Crystal,
pretty, snow,
falling, soothing, touching,
tumbles in the sky fragile as glass,
snowflake.

You can write this poem as a riddle with the last line being, "what is it?"





3. Dream Quilt-

Supplies needed: paper, markers, crayons, construction paper, scissors, glue

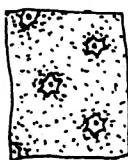
1. Draw a dream that you had or invent one. Outline with marker and fill in with crayon covering all of the white space of the paper.
2. Fold the paper in half gently, then in half again, then again and again and again. You should have 16 squares.
3. Cut out each square on the fold lines.
4. Arrange your dream back together onto a colored construction paper, leaving a little border in between. Glue it!
5. Write about your dream quilt making sure to give details on the colors, shapes, sounds and objects that were part of your dream to make it seem real-just the way dreams are!

4. Paper Quilt

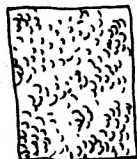
Supplies needed: watercolors, brushes, water, salt, small sponges, heavy white paper, a drying area for wet paper, glue and scissors (substitute markers and crayons for paints for an easier project)

Day One-

1. Set up painting stations;
Watercolor paints, water container, brushes, little sponges for painting, salt containers
2. Write your name on the back of two papers in pencil.
3. Paint two papers with salt (see Crystal snowflakes) and sponge painting techniques creating one light pattern and one dark pattern.

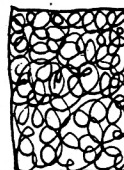


SALT



SPONGE

~OR~



CRAYON



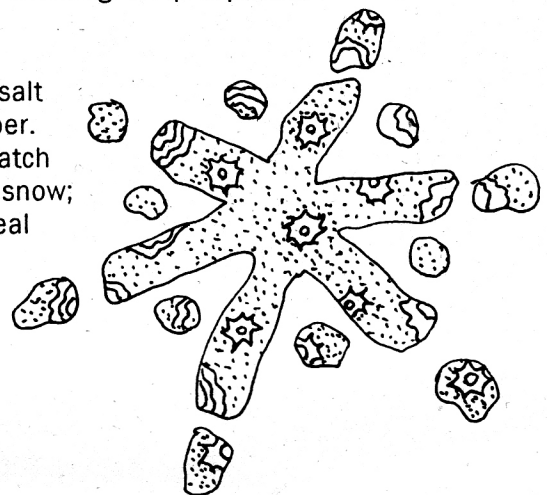
MARKER

Day Two-

1. Show samples of traditional quilt patterns.
2. Fold your papers carefully into half, then half again and again and again. You should have 16 squares.
3. Cut out your squares on the fold lines, very carefully and make two piles on your desk-dark and light. Then, you may cut your squares into triangles, starting at one corner and cutting straight across to the other corner.
4. Assemble your shapes into a traditional quilt pattern or invent your own and give it a name.
5. Glue into place onto a pieces of plain white paper.
6. Make up a story about yourself as a pioneer who named this original quilt pattern.

5. Crystal Snowflakes-

Supplies needed: white paper, watercolors, water, paint brush, salt
Paint a snowflake shape, or lots of snowflakes on the white paper.
Sprinkle salt into the painted area while the paint is still wet. Watch what happens to the salt as the paint dries. Write a story about snow; first snow, blizzard, avalanche! What if the snow was made of real crystals? What if the snow were diamonds falling from the sky?



Quilt of Dreams

The Birds in the Air blocks used in Katy's quilt represent 3 birds flying against the dark sky. Many quilt blocks have more than one name. This block is also known as Flying Birds, Flock of Geese and White Clouds. Just as Katy's blocks were found after her grandmother died, many children and grandchildren are surprised to find boxes of unfinished quilt blocks that have been tucked away for years, waiting to be finished by a quilter in the younger generation.

