

Resource Collection: Quilts

Description

Quilts serve many purposes. They keep us warm and cover beds, but can also be pieces of art. Quilts may have special meaning in the fabric or patterns they use or in the stories that they tell.

This resource collection highlights several quilts in the Nobles County Historical Society Collection. It connects these quilts to related objects in the NCHS collection and offers related lesson materials, videos, and other resources to enrich student learning.

Featured NCHS Quilts

- [2015.045.0042.PC](#) (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) - Handmade patchwork tied quilt made by Red Cross ladies in 1941 - 1942 as a fund raiser. This quilt was begun in April 1942 and each Red Cross branch in the county contributed a block. Worthington quilters did the actual assembling and quilting. For each name on the quilt, 10 cents was donated to the Red Cross. The quilt netted \$237.57 for the Red Cross Treasury.
- [2015.045.0043.PC](#) - Handmade patchwork tied quilt made by Eleanore Ebeling from 1933 to 1936. Note sewed on back of the yellow quilt with butterfly squares says: Quilt started in winter of '33 & '34. I was married in March 1934 and completed it in 1936, Eleanore Ebeling, first quilt.”
- [2015.045.0059.PC](#) - Double Wedding Ring Quilt, c. 1900-1950.
- [2015.045.0063.PC](#) - Handmade quilt featuring a Log Cabin pattern with red center squares, c. 1930.
- [2015.045.0066.PC](#) - Handmade quilt with diamond pattern on it, c. 1940.
- [2015.045.0067.PC](#) - Handmade quilt featuring a crazy quilt pattern on it and the date 1900.
- [2015.045.0071.PC](#) - Patchwork quilt made by Matilda Meier at Brewster circa 1915 to 1920.
- [2015.045.0072.PC](#) - Handmade quilt with square pattern on one side and Bicentennial/patriotic drawings on the other. This quilt was made by school children around 1976.
- [2015.067.0001.PC](#) - Quilt with Dresden Plate pattern, c. 1930.
- [2017.075.0001.PC](#) - Bicentennial Quilt made by a 3rd grade class at Central Elementary School in 1976.



NOBLES COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Analysis Tools

- Project Zero: Harvard Graduate School of Education
 - [See, Think, Wonder](#)
 - [Unveiling Stories](#)
 - [See Think Me We](#)
 - [Creative Questions](#) (with [Creative Question Starts](#))
 - [Colors, Shapes, Lines](#)
- Analyze an Object or Artifact ([Novice](#) and [Intermediate](#)) - National Archives and Records Administration

Related NCHS Photos

- [2023.101.1471.PC](#) - Grandma Dirks of Allendorf with quilts, 1955.
- [2011.060.0229.PC](#) - Janice Kass, Dundee, MN, with quilt/she's the one who arranged to have "Country America" quilt there, 1991.
- [2014.028.0414.PC](#) - Rural school students (likely from District No 8) posing outside the schoolhouse with a patchwork quilt. Stamped on the back is the photo finishing date of Jul 10, 1943.
- [2014.074.0007.PC](#) - Class photo of seven students attending District No. 46 taken outside the school house. They are holding up a patchwork quilt. c. 1940.
- [2022.101.0914.PC](#) - Photograph from the *Daily Globe* collection of an unknown woman holding up a quilt, 1990.
- [2023.101.4967.PC](#) - Mrs. Zumpf and Connie with quilt, 1955.
- [2023.201.0947.PC](#) - Lady with quilt, possibly Mrs. Henrik Matson, 1956.



NOBLES COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Grades K-5

Lesson Plans

[Identifying Geometric Patterns in Quilts - International Quilt Museum at the University of Nebraska Lincoln](#)

This K-3 lesson helps students to recognize shapes and patterns through quilts. Students will analyze examples of different quilts to identify different shapes, colors, and patterns. They then have the opportunity to create their own patterns. Lesson materials include images, instructions, and an assessment with a rubric.

[Faith Ringgold and Story Quilts - Mattatuck Museum](#)

This lesson plan from the Mattatuck Museum asks students grades 1-4 to consider how narrative artworks are created through the example of Faith Ringgold. Ringgold's story quilts combined text and imagery to tell a story, oftentimes one connected to her native Harlem.

[Village Story Blanket- Minneapolis Institute of Art](#)

This lesson plan helps students in grades 3-6 to analyze a Hmong story blanket. Students will then design their own story blankets around scenes from their daily lives.

Lesson Activities

[Log Cabin Coloring Block - International Quilt Museum at the University of Nebraska Lincoln](#)

This handout gives students the opportunity to color their own log cabin quilt block. Once all students have colored a block, teachers could have students cut them out and combine them to make a class quilt.

Read a Book about Quilts

Collaborate with your school librarian to find an age-appropriate book on quilts to read as a class

Videos

[Finding Minnesota: Houston County Barn Quilt Tours - WCCO - CBS Minnesota](#)

This 3-minute video takes a closer look at barn quilts in Houston County. Barn quilts are painted on wood and show a single square of a quilt. More than 60 barns in the county have a barn quilt on them.



NOBLES COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Other Museum Resources

[National Quilt Museum - Google Arts & Culture](#)

Google Arts & Culture hosts more than 200 images of quilts in the collection of the National Quilt Museum. These quilts bear a wide variety of designs, including patterns, plants, animals, scenes, and people.

[I Go To Prepare A Place For You - Bisa Butler Quilt of Harriet Tubman - Smithsonian NMAAHC](#)

This Bisa Butler quilt depicts Harriet Tubman. The object caption describes the symbolism behind the imagery and colors used in the artwork.



NOBLES COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Grades 6-12

Lesson Activities

[Word Search: Find the Quilt Blocks - International Quilt Museum at the University of Nebraska Lincoln](#)

This word search challenges students to locate words related to different types of quilt block patterns, such as the Log Cabin, Sunflower, and Pinwheel patterns. The handout features pictures of these different patterns for reference.

Articles

[Sewing Stories - Scholastic Art](#)

This article from the December 2021 edition of *Scholastic Art* asks “How do Bisa Butler’s materials and process help her share ideas?” The article details how Butler became interested in quilting and details her artistic process. The article’s page includes additional resources, including a lesson plan, videos, vocabulary, and sketchbook starters.

Videos

[Artist Bisa Butler on her Process and Using Materials with Meaning - Scholastic](#)

Artist Bisa Butler describes how she makes portrait quilts in this 6-minute video from Scholastic. She explains how she transforms a photograph into a quilt by selecting different colors to represent different emotions.

[Native Report - Gwen Westerman - PBS North](#)

In this 7-minute video, Gwen Westerman describes her artistic process. Westerman describes the evolution of depictions of stars in Dakota art over time. She describes the inspiration behind and construction of different quilts she has made.

Other Museum Resources

[From These Hands: Fiber Art and Poetry by Gwen Westerman - Hillstrom Museum of Art, Gustavus Adolphus College](#)

This guide accompanied a 2021 exhibition of Dakota artist Gwen Westerman’s art and poetry at Gustavus Adolphus College. The guide contains several pictures of Westerman’s quilts, which are accompanied by descriptions and some of her poetry.



NOBLES COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

[I Go To Prepare A Place For You - Bisa Butler Quilt of Harriet Tubman - Smithsonian NMAAHC](#)

This Bisa Butler quilt depicts Harriet Tubman. The object caption describes the symbolism behind the imagery and colors used in the artwork.

[National Quilt Museum - Google Arts & Culture](#)

Google Arts & Culture hosts more than 200 images of quilts in the collection of the National Quilt Museum. These quilts bear a wide variety of designs, including patterns, plants, animals, scenes, and people.



NOBLES COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY