



Join the Barn Quilt Trail!

Start a quilt trail in the classroom using bright adhesive foam sheets and birch panels

(art + history) (art + math)

Quilting has been around for generations and began as a way to use every last scrap of fabric, feed sacks, or old clothing to make a warm and comforting covering. Quilts were born from necessity but were most often works of art as well. In fact, quilt patterns were shared from woman to woman, and might even have been mailed to a far-away friend, or given to a neighbor.

Donna Sue Groves of Adams County, Ohio, initiated the Barn Quilt Movement in 2001. Donna's grandmother quilted during family visits, and her skill made a lasting impression. The 9 patch quilt (Donna's favorite pattern) is very simple and consists of nine equal squares within each larger square. The simplicity is what makes it fun! There are endless ways in which the basic block can be changed. Many new quilters learned to sew using this simple pattern.

Barn quilts enjoy a unique history, just as fabric quilts do. While the earliest American barns were not usually painted at all because of the expense, beginning in the mid 1800s they were often decorated with different types of folk art. This included colorful wood quilt blocks that were affixed to the peak of the barn. In the early 2000s, barn quilts started showing up again, thanks to Groves. Her Barn Quilt Trail was partly initiated as a way to create a more robust economy in Ohio, while also preserving family stories about the people who not only built the barns, but added to the rich farming history of the area. Since 2001, the Barn Quilt Trail has grown to include 40 states and Canada!

Groves believes that quilts have power. Just about everyone has a quilt story and remembers a quilt. Do you have a quilt story to share? While not nearly as time-consuming as quilting by hand, making a wood quilt square results in the same colorful and expressive result.

GRADES K-8 Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

Materials (required)

Baltic Birch Panel, 8" x 8", package of 5 (13614-0088); one per student

Marabu Art Spray, 50 ml (21170-); choose at least three background colors

Creativity Street Wonderfoam Peel & Stick Sheets, Multicolored Sheets, package of 20, 9" x 12" (61731-1023); share two packages across class

Creativity Street Wonderfoam Peel & Stick Shapes, package of 720 (61731-1010); share one across class

Blick Plastic Ruler (55403-1012); share five across class

Pencil

Materials (optional)

Foam brush (05114-)

Bienfang Gridded Paper (10613-1095)

Blickrylic Student Acrylics (00711-)

Cloth Picture Hangers (18916-1209)



Preparation

1. Look at images of quilts on the Quilt Trail and fabric versions.
2. Provide each student with one 8" x 8" wooden panel.

Process

1. Choose a background color for the quilt square and spray the entire wood panel in that color. Younger students may need supervision with the spray, or they could use a foam brush and acrylic paint.
2. Sketch a quilt square on gridded paper, or just start adhering geometric shapes to the background of the wood panel. Be sure to leave areas of the colored wood panel exposed. It is helpful to make a very light 2" grid on the panel with a pencil as a guide for placement of quilt pieces.
3. Since the base for the quilt is an 8" square, it is easy to use shapes that are based on 1" units of measure. For example, a 2" square could yield two right triangles or four 1" squares. Cut strips, squares, and triangles out of Adhesive Wonderfoam sheets to apply to the panel.
4. For smaller detail or other shapes, include shapes from the bag of 720 Peel & Stick Shapes.

Options

- Attach a cloth hanger to the back to display.

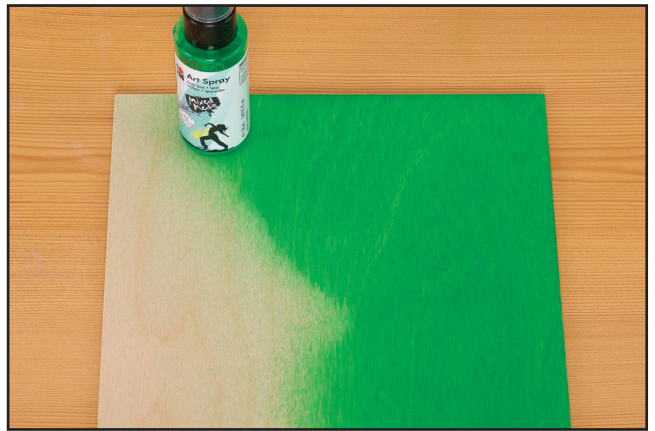
National Core Arts Standards - Visual Arts

Creating

Anchor Standard 3: Refine and complete artistic work.

Connecting

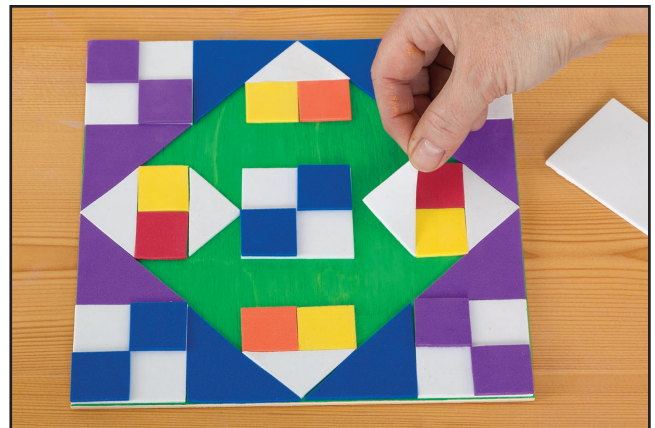
Anchor Standard 10: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.



Step 1: Paint the background of an 8" square Baltic birch panel.



Step 2: Sketch a light 2" grid onto the panel in pencil.



Step 3: Cut adhesive Wonderfoam into strips, squares, and triangles to create a geometric patterned quilt block.

