

Keeping Us in Stitches Activity: Appliqué Bedcover Design

Purpose: to help the students become familiar with the use of patriotic and classical motifs in appliqué design and technique

Illinois State Museum Web sites used: http://www.museum.state.il.us/muslink/art/htmls/ks_appliq.html

Objective: students will show an understanding of traditional appliqué by making a paper appliqué patriotic bedcover or quilt top using appropriate motifs, symmetry, color schemes, proportion, and composition the way a traditional appliqué designer would.

Grade Level: 3-6

Time Required: one 60-minute period

Materials: craft paper for backgrounds
construction paper for motifs
sketching paper
pencils
scissors
glue



Motivation: Discuss how patriotic motifs are used on objects. Look at examples of American patriotic appliqué quilts (see resources list) for:

colors

composition (center motifs, borders, album style, etc.)

patriotic motifs and sayings

Brainstorm a list of American symbols from your experience and knowledge

Procedure:

- Choose a limited set of colors to use; historical, patriotic, or personal colors.
- Choose a limited set of motifs.
- Decide on the size of your quilt background. (quilts were often almost square) (18 or 24 inches square)
- Sketch your motifs on sketch paper in the appropriate size and scale to fit onto your background.
- When you are satisfied, transfer your best sketches onto colored paper and cut out.
- Arrange your motifs on the background paper to make a more or less symmetrical composition.
- When satisfied with the composition, glue down the motifs.

Keeping Us in Stitches: Quilts & Quilters

Publication and Closure: Hang up the paper appliqué designs in an exhibit. Each student tells the class about his/her design and its meaning. Class discussion summarizes the idea of patriotism as seen through decorative objects.

Assessment: student work and verbal description should reflect the effective choice and arrangement of patriotic motifs into a symmetrical composition.

Illinois State Board of Education Goals and Standards addressed:

Visual Art: Goal 27: Understand the role of the arts in civilization.

Social Science: Goal 18.A.2: Explain ways in which artistic creations serve as expressions of culture.