

## **Illinois State Museum – MuseumLink Art**

### **Keeping Us in Stitches Activity: Log Cabin Settings**

**Purpose:** the student will understand the many variations of settings possible with the Log Cabin block, and what visual skills a quilter needs to design quilt tops.

#### **Illinois State Museum Web site used:**

[http://www.museum.state.il.us/muslink/art/htmls/ks\\_piece\\_log.html](http://www.museum.state.il.us/muslink/art/htmls/ks_piece_log.html)

Also click on Online Activities for an interactive Log Cabin Activity.

**Objective:** by rotating colored paper blocks, students will create a straight setting, experiment with other settings, and finally choose one setting of Log Cabin block quilts to produce a model Log Cabin quilt top.

**Grade Levels:** all (in testing this activity, we found K-adults liked this activity)

**Time Required:** one class period

**Materials:** printout of the Log Cabin blocks

crayons or markers

poster board (8 inches by 8 inches will allow for a one-inch border)

gluesticks, scissors, ruler, pencil

**Motivation:** Students will view the log cabin settings on the Web site. A setting is a particular arrangement of blocks. They may also look at samples of Log Cabin settings in quilt books. Discuss how quilters play with quilt blocks to discover new settings.

**Procedure:** students will

- Choose two colors for their Log Cabin color scheme — one light and one dark.
- Color the blocks of the Log Cabin Block Activity printout.
- Cut out the blocks.
- Arrange them in a straight setting on the desk, experiment with different settings by rearranging the blocks on the desk.
- Choose their favorite setting and glue the blocks down to the center of the poster board leaving an even border all around.
- Find the name of their setting in a quilt book, or name it themselves.

**Publication and Conclusion:** Students can compare settings, count them, tell how they made their setting, explain the names of the different settings including any they may have made up.

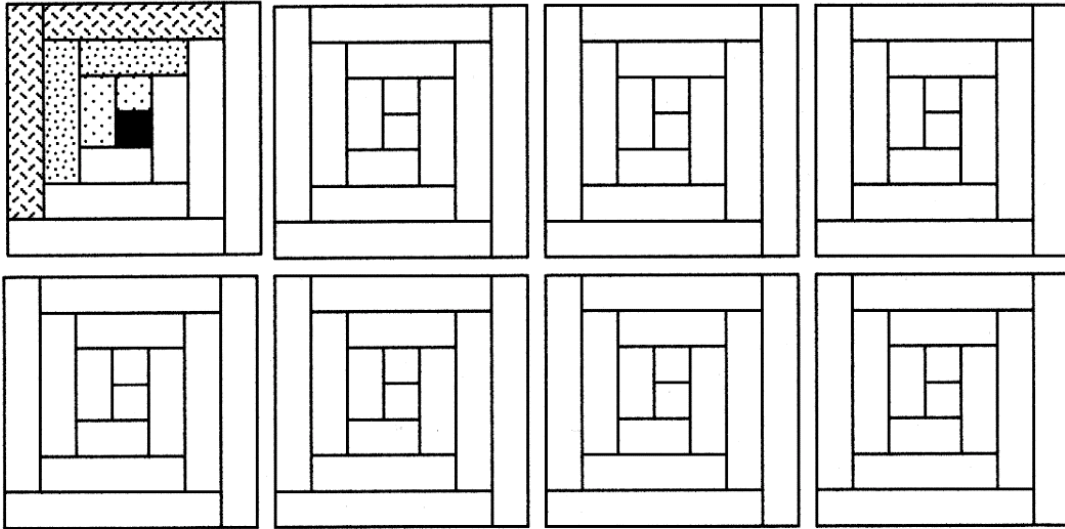
**Assessment:** The setting should reflect an organized pattern of Log Cabin blocks. Students should be able to tell the name of the setting if known or explain a rationale for the name they gave the setting. Students should also be able to demonstrate the straight setting of Log Cabin blocks.

**Illinois State Board of Education Goals and Standards addressed:**

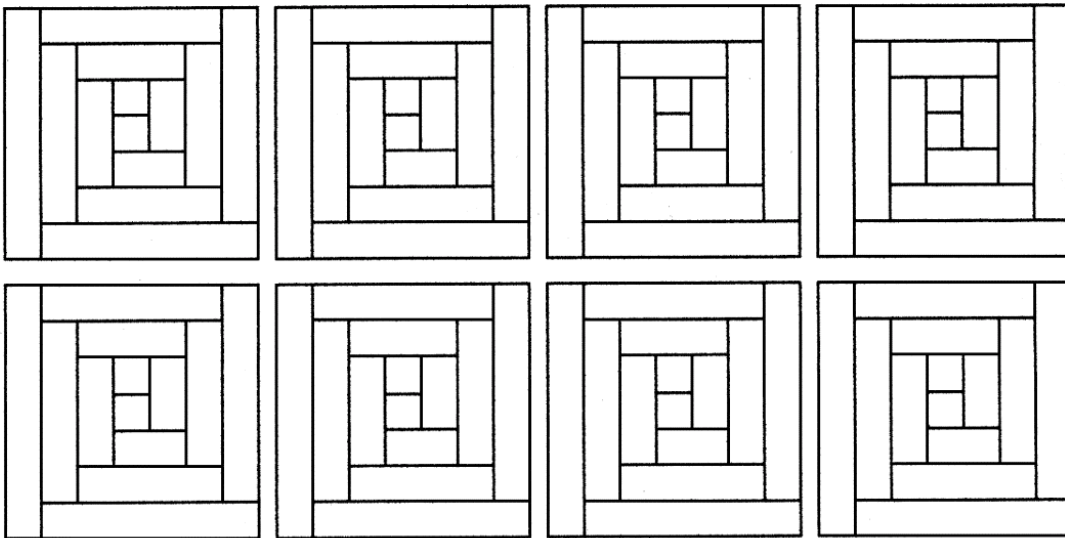
**Visual Art Goal 26B:** Apply the skills and knowledge necessary to create an art form.

**Keeping Us in Stitches: Quilts & Quilters**

Color one-half of each block light, and the other half darker, diagonally.



counterclockwise blocks  
clockwise blocks



Cut out the individual blocks. Play with their arrangement on a table. When you have an arrangement you like, glue the blocks to a sheet of paper. Now you have your own paper quilt in your own unique design!