

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

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.

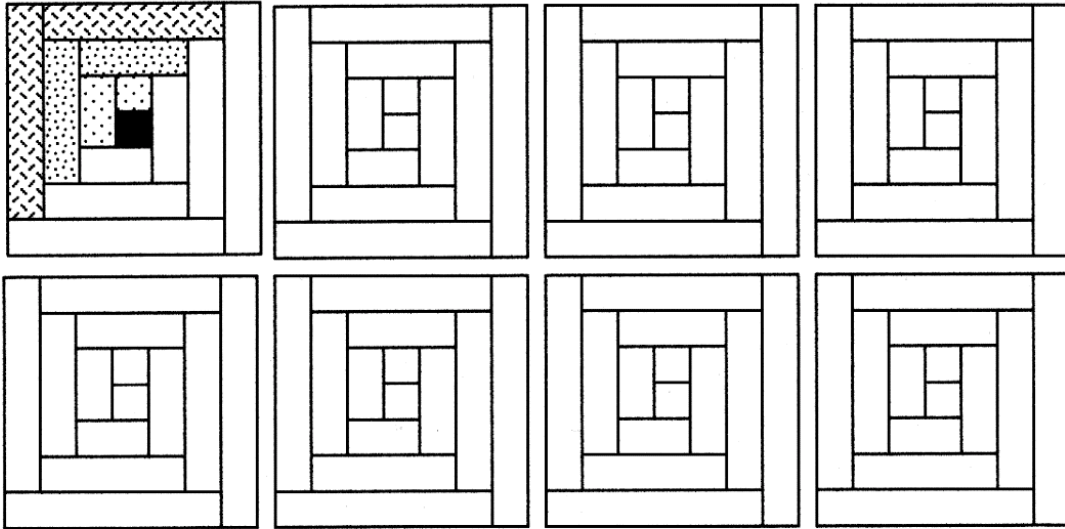
Assessment: The setting should reflect an organized pattern of Log Cabin blocks. Students should be able to tell the name of the setting if known or explain a rationale for the name they gave the setting. Students should also be able to demonstrate the straight setting of Log Cabin blocks.

Illinois State Board of Education Goals and Standards addressed:

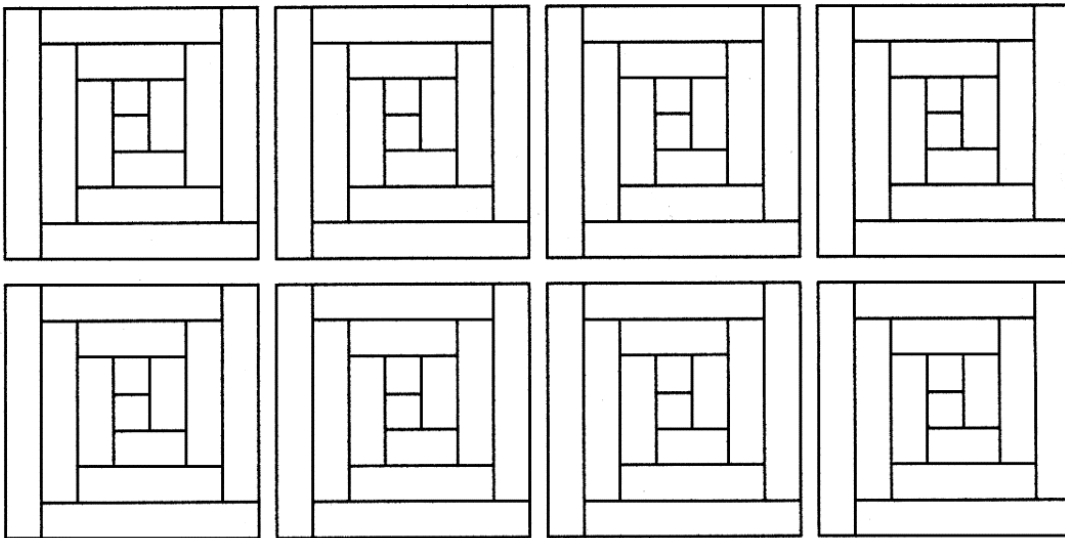
Visual Art Goal 26B: Apply the skills and knowledge necessary to create an art form.

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!