

February 2021 JumpstART Art Activity Instructions

Welcome to our February JumpstART program! This month we are celebrating Black History Month. We will be creating Freedom Quilts inspired by our book this month, *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt*. The designs on the freedom quilts were said to have secret messages, helping to guide and protect enslaved people on their way to freedom. We will be exploring colors and shapes to make some of these beautiful designs.

Supplies:

Scissors

Glue

Assorted colors of construction paper, or you can color white paper

Crayon, markers, and a ruler are optional

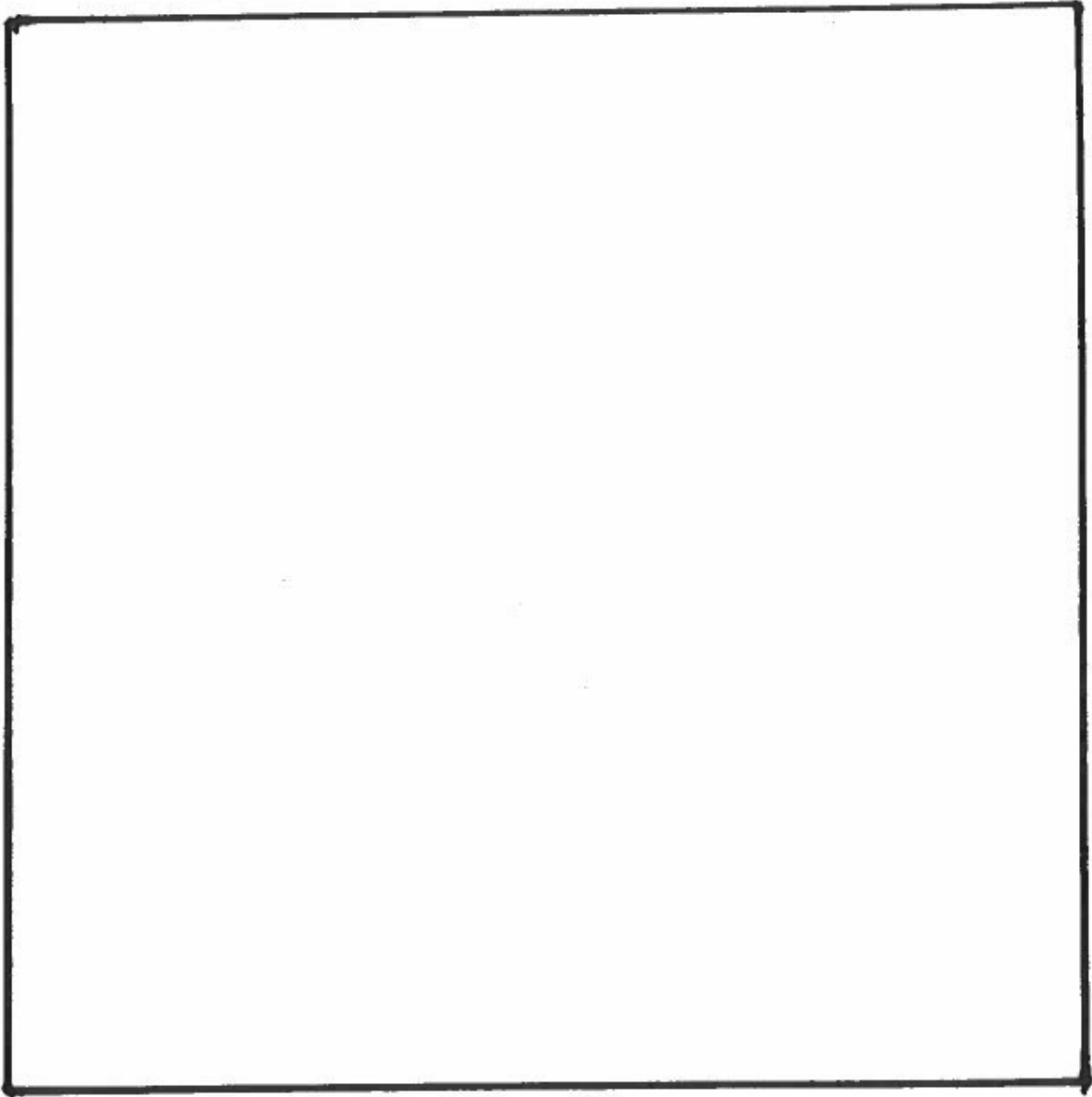
Now let's get started!

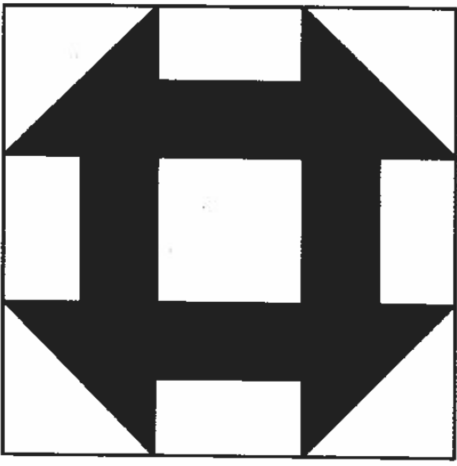
- First, have a square of paper, any color, ready to start your quilt. It does not have to be a perfect square shape for your base, but being fairly close to the same length on all sides helps with the design. If you have a ruler, use it now to mark off your square that is the same length on all four sides. You can also use the template in your art kit or on our website to trace your square.
- Now, choose your design. Try the **Log Cabin** design with the long strips of paper. This design meant that you have reached a safe house and have found new friends.
Also try the **Crossroads** design that meant keep going and travel to the crossroads location, or the **Flying Geese** design that meant follow the migrating geese north to Canada.
- Next, you will need to cut lots of shapes to use in your designs. Tracing your quilt square shape onto your other colored papers will help with the size of the squares, triangles and long rectangles that you will cut. (you might need an adult or older sibling to help with this) Fold your colored paper in half, and then in half again. This will give you 4 squares. You

can use these squares to trace and cut more squares in different colors. You can also cut these squares in half to create triangles. Also cut long strips in the shape of rectangles that are the size of your quilt square. Use a variety of colors of your construction paper. If you do not have colored papers handy, then any paper will do. You can assemble the cut, white paper shapes and then have fun coloring later.

- Once you have lots of different colors of squares, triangles and strips, play with your design and have fun planning your design before you glue it down. Choose your favorite colors or do one using only primary colors. Layer your shapes to add more colors to your design.
- Folding your quilt square will help give you a sort of guide in placing your shapes for designs like the Crossroads and Flying Geese.
- Once you have a design you like, use your glue stick to glue the strips and shapes in place.
- Add layers of cut shapes or add to your design with Crayons or markers.
- Make as many as you can and put them together to display as a beautiful paper Freedom Quilt

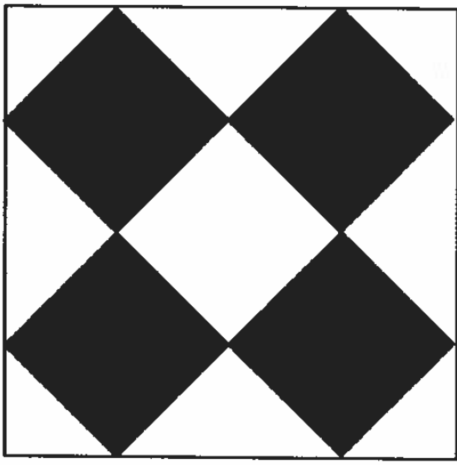
For our older audience, you can play with the designs and make secret messages with your quilt squares. Try making a map with your designs. Create a boat shape using triangles, because boats were used as an escape to freedom. Most of all, have fun creating and learning about this piece of our history!





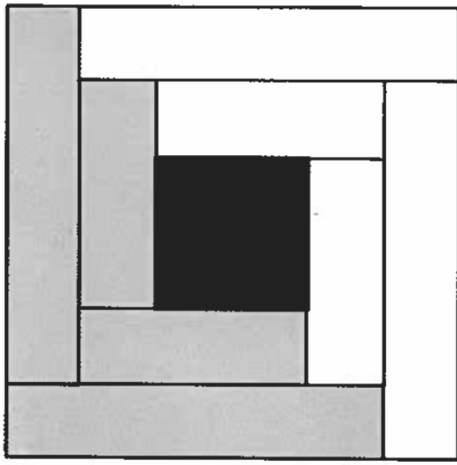
Monkey Wrench

Get ready! Gather the tools you'll need to build shelters, navigate the journey, or defend yourself along the way.



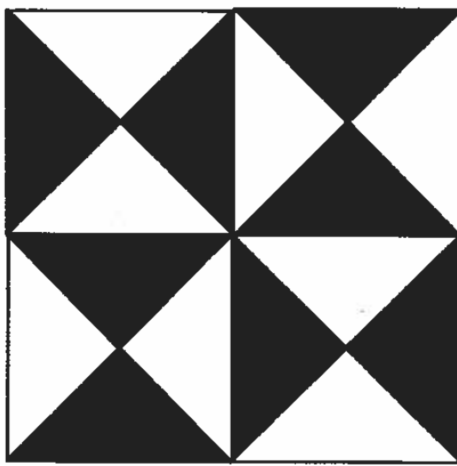
Crossroads

Keep going and travel to the crossroads in Cleveland, Ohio. Nicknamed "Hope", this vibrant Underground Railroad station, was the last stop where slaves would board a boat to Canada.



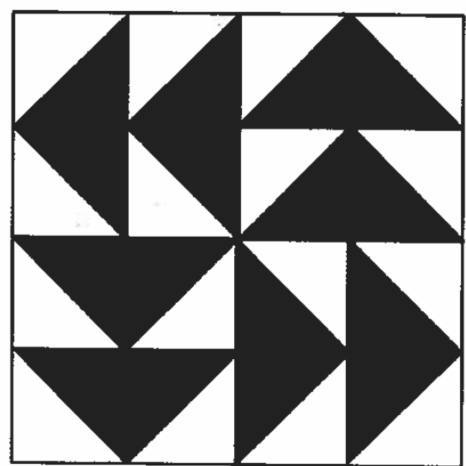
Log Cabin

You've reached a safe house. Congratulations you have found new friends who are friends of slaves.



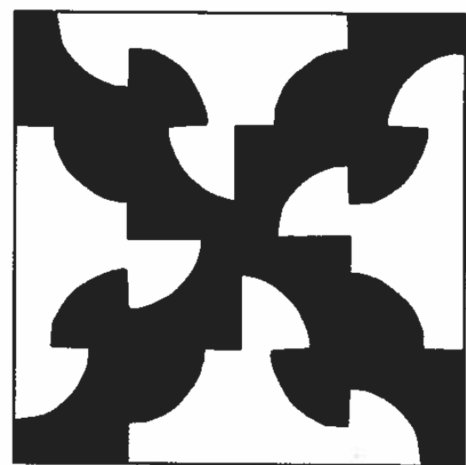
Bow Ties

You're looking pretty tattered. To disguise yourself as a freed slave, you'll need a change of clothes. The Bow Ties quilt block is a code to tell you someone will bring you nicer clothing.



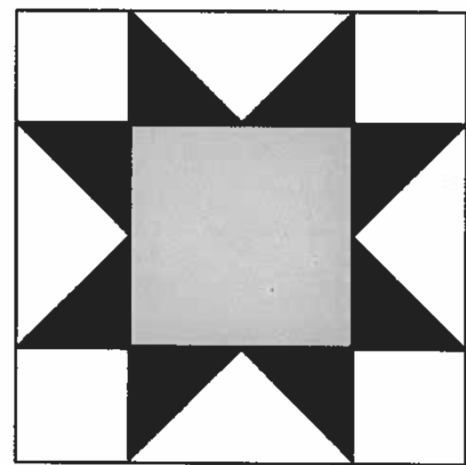
Flying Geese

Follow the migrating geese north to Canada (and freedom).



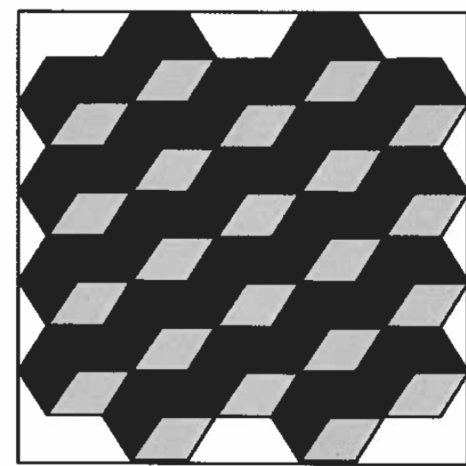
Drunkard's Path

Go back one space! This quilt block is a sign that slave hunters are near. Double back to elude them immediately!



North Star

Look to the skies to help you navigate the way. Follow the North Star to Canada.



Tumbling Blocks

The time has come to box up your belongings. Your escape will be happening soon!