



Developed with Donna Sinisgalli

Cultural quilt

Volume 67 | Gr. 6–12

Time: 2–3 class periods



Objectives

Students will be able to...

- Define the following elements of art and principles of design: shape, color, variety, harmony, unity, and positive and negative space
- Identify the artist M.C. Escher
- Define the terms tessellation, stylization, and symbolism
- Create positive and negative space
- Create a print incorporating three symbols about their culture
- Create a rotation tessellation
- Attach their print to other prints to create a multicultural quilt
- Write about how the symbols relate to their heritage
- Write a critique about the quilt that discusses how the quilt embodies a variety of color, shapes, and cultures, yet comes together in harmony and unity

Standards

VA:Cr2.3.8a

Select, organize, and design images and words to make visually clear and compelling presentations.

VA:Re.7.2.1a

Analyze how one's understanding of the world is affected by experiencing visual imagery.

VA:Cr2.1.11a

Experiment, plan, and make multiple works of art and design that explore a personally meaningful theme, idea, or concept.

Directions

1. Have students create three stylized images that represent their heritage on a 4" x 4" piece of newsprint paper.

2. Instruct students to divide the square in half. They can use a straight line, curvy line, jagged line, or any line of their choosing. Then, have them follow the next steps.

3. With a Sharpie® marker, color one side of the square black and leave the other side white. The objects on the black side will be white, and if they cross the line they will change to white. The opposite goes for the white side.

4. Since the drawing is going to be printed, all letters, numbers, and words must be drawn backwards. The same is true for maps.

5. Transfer the drawing onto a Safety-Kut™ block. Then darken the back of the drawing with a No. 2 or ebony pencil, place graphite side down on the block, and tape into place. Trace over original drawing. The graphite will be pressed onto the block. Next, remove the newsprint paper to reveal the transfer on the Safety-Kut™ block.

6. Cut the shapes out with a block printing lino cutter.



7. Place ink on a mixing tray and roll brayer back and forth until covered with ink. You can place two inks on the tray at once to blend colors.

8. Roll the ink with the brayer over the block until it is covered evenly with ink.

9. Press the block ink-side down onto a piece of paper. While block is still face down, draw a vertical arrow on the back.

10. Print three more times in a rotational direction, following the arrow that is drawn on the back. The final print will be a large print made up of four smaller prints and, by printing in a rotation, will create a tessellation.

11. Cut out the print, leaving $\frac{1}{2}$ " borders. Place a hole punch into each corner.

12. Attach prints together with yarn.

13. When your quilt is displayed, have each student present their work and either write or talk about why the symbols are meaningful to them. Then, have them write about how each square is different but forms a cohesive whole.





Materials list

- Newsprint Paper, 500 sheets, 12" x 18" ([9700914](#))
- Sharpie® Fine-Point Black Markers, box of 12 [[9717997\(A\)](#)]
- Design® Ebony Black Drawing Pencils, box of 12 ([9728151](#))
- Speedball® Soft Rubber Brayer, 4" ([9701365](#))
- Safety-Kut™ Blocks ([9704655](#), [9706150](#), [9716678](#))
- Speedball® Lino Cutters, set of 5 ([9701402](#))
- Ink Mixing Trays, pkg. of 10 ([9703440](#))
- Speedball® Water-Soluble 8-Color Set, 16 oz. Jars [[9715249](#)]
- Nasco Premium Construction Paper, 50 sheets, 12" x 18" [[9729978\(A-N\)](#)]
- Single Hole Punch, 1/4" dia. ([9701185](#))
- Red Heart® Super Saver Yarn [[9738062\(A\)](#), [9738062\(H\)](#), [9738062\(J\)](#), [9738062\(P\)](#), [9738062\(Q-Z\)](#)]

