

Quilt of Life

Submitted by NWREL Staff; www.nwrel.org

Traits: Organization

Grade Level: Middle School (6-8)

Time: One week or more (in and out of class work)

Supplies:

- Writing materials
- Access to art materials--paper, paint, etc.
- Computers for word processing and graphics

Lesson Description:

This lesson was designed to add a writing component to a math/art enrichment class, where students worked with tessellations, quilt history and design, and sewing an actual quilt block.

1) Students are asked to think about the important events and people that shaped the course and nature of their lives. They need to select seven to ten to make up the "quilt" and the story it will tell, and to discover the "common thread" that connects these people and events. This thread could be a relationship with a person, a love of horses, a sport, geography, etc.

2) Once these life-shaping experiences have been narrowed and selected, students will decide the format or method to present their "quilt of life." These "quilt stories" could be told entirely with words, pictures--drawings, photos--multimedia presentation, poetry, song, an actual quilt, etc. The emphasis is on the story being told and the common thread that runs through it.

3) There should probably be some sort of sharing involved--the final products beg to be shared--but with a strong sensitivity to the personal nature of the stories being told.