

"No-Sew" Quilt

Description

Historically, quilts were created to tell a story, share a culture, offer a visual representation of an event, or depict a series of scenarios around a common theme. There are many advantages of making a quilt project that doesn't involve sewing cloth squares. The pieces of the quilt and the quilt itself can be of varying sizes, they can include both pictures and words to tell a story or report a message, they are easy to construct, and they are interesting to interpret. You can adapt a quilt format to any subject area and to any combination of stories and information about people, places, things, or events.

Planning

1. Decide on a topic or theme for the quilt. Subjects can range from historical events or geographical sites to the recording of biographical data or important discoveries. Science quilts can show species, biomes, geological features, or physics principles.
2. Research the topic and write a set of important facts about the main ideas related to the topic. Decide how many pieces or squares you will include in your quilt project and then list the facts and corresponding graphics you will want to include on each piece. The quilt can include a graphic and a set of facts for each piece, or it can alternate a graphic with its corresponding set of facts. Either format works well.
3. Cut out several different-sized pieces for your quilt, and use these to determine the best size for your project. Consider whether you will have separate illustrated and factual sections or whether you will combine the two elements. Next, cut out several pieces for your quilt and number them. Write out a concept and/or a type of graphic to be used for each piece so that the pieces actually become a working outline for your research.
4. Draw each scenario and/or write each set of facts on the paper squares. Use a construction paper border around the outside of the quilt and between the individual pieces to hold the quilt together. Another option would be to paste the individual quilt pieces on a roll of shelf paper so that the finished quilt design is horizontal and a rectangle rather than a large square.
5. Practice retelling the story or reporting information using the squares or sections of the quilt.

Assessing

1. Determine whether the topic you have chosen is effectively shown in the quilt. Does the number of pieces get the information across? Is the quality of information good? What about the color and the pictures included? Is the shape and configuration a match for the subject? Does it have good eye appeal? Summarize your thoughts in a paragraph that critiques your finished product.
2. Share your quilt project with three other people and ask each one to critique your work. How do their comments compare with your analysis of your quilt? What things do you agree on, and what things do you disagree on? What would you do differently next time?