

WYCKOFF HOUSE MUSEUM

Farmhouse Family Day: Black History Month Paper Quilting



Quilting is an ancient technique of stitching together layers of fabric and padding to produce warm, lined blankets. Quilted blankets became a staple in colonial America and a necessary task for women of all backgrounds and classes. It was often work that was passed down to the enslaved women of the household during that time since it was a labor intensive craft.



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GEE'S BEND COOPERATIVE OF QUILTERS

The enslaved women of Boykin, Alabama, also known as Gee's Bend, began to quilt in the 1830s. They used this process not only to create warm blankets but to preserve memories of events and tell stories from their community using certain patterns and fabrics. Today, the descendants of these women have joined together to sell their quilts and have been featured in museums around the world.

Learn about the [Gee's Bend Quilters in this short video.](#)



*Housetop
Variation by Mary
Lee Bendolph.*

Photo by Steve
Pitkin/Pitkin
Studio, courtesy
of Souls Grown
Deep Foundation

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*Housetop, Log
Cabin Variation by
Lucy Mingo.*

Photo by Steve
Pitkin/Pitkin Studio,
courtesy of Souls
Grown Deep
Foundation

Check out more examples of the Gee's Bend Quilts [here](#).

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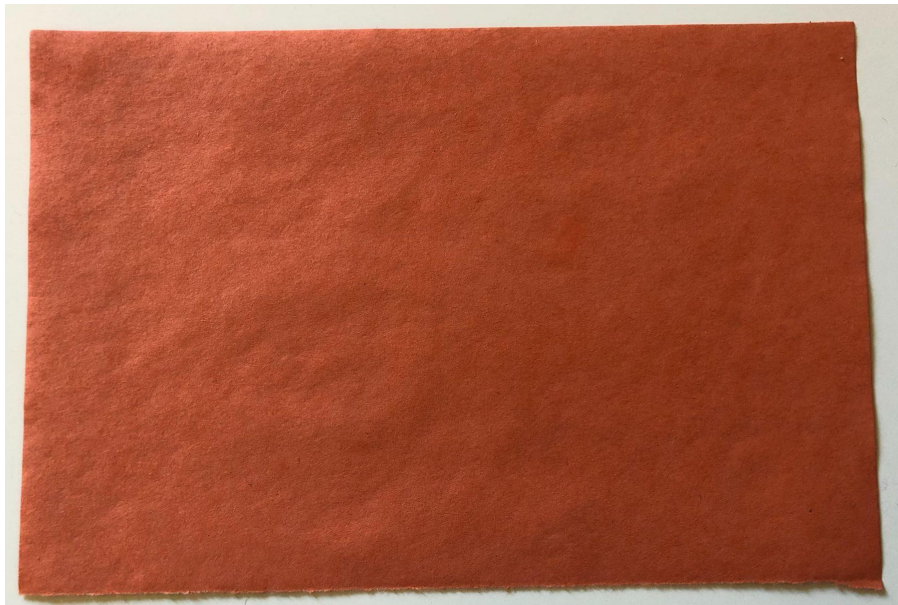
PAPER QUILTING ACTIVITY

MATERIALS:

- Several sheet of colored paper or construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue stick or Tape

Step 1:

Select a piece of paper as the background for your quilt square.



Step 2:

Select different colored paper and cut different shapes. Try folding your paper in different ways to experiment with different shapes and sizes.

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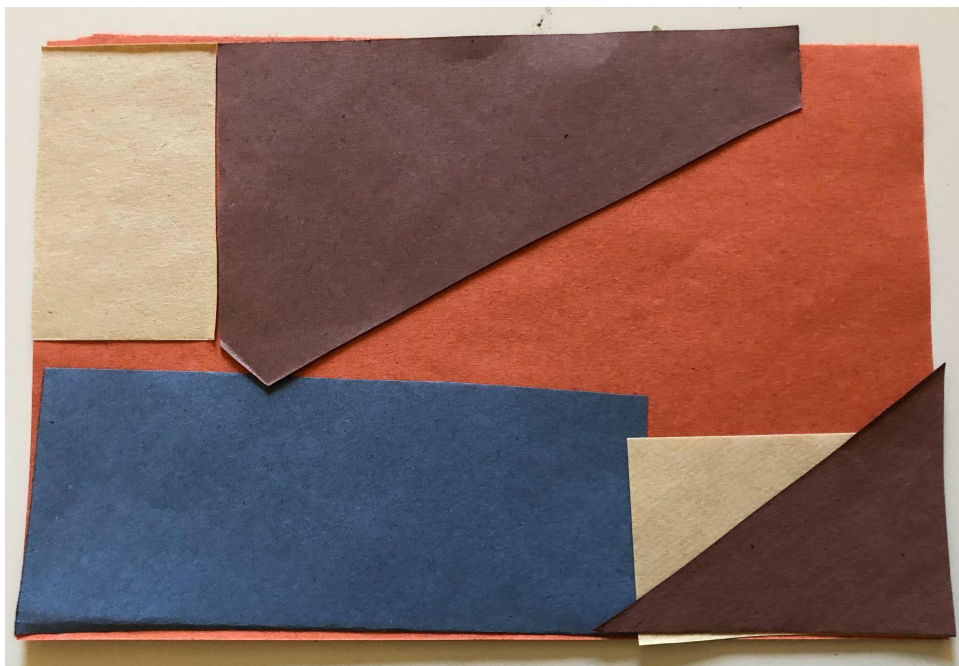
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Black History Month Paper Quilting



Step 3:

Begin to place your paper shapes on the quilt square. What story will you tell with your design?



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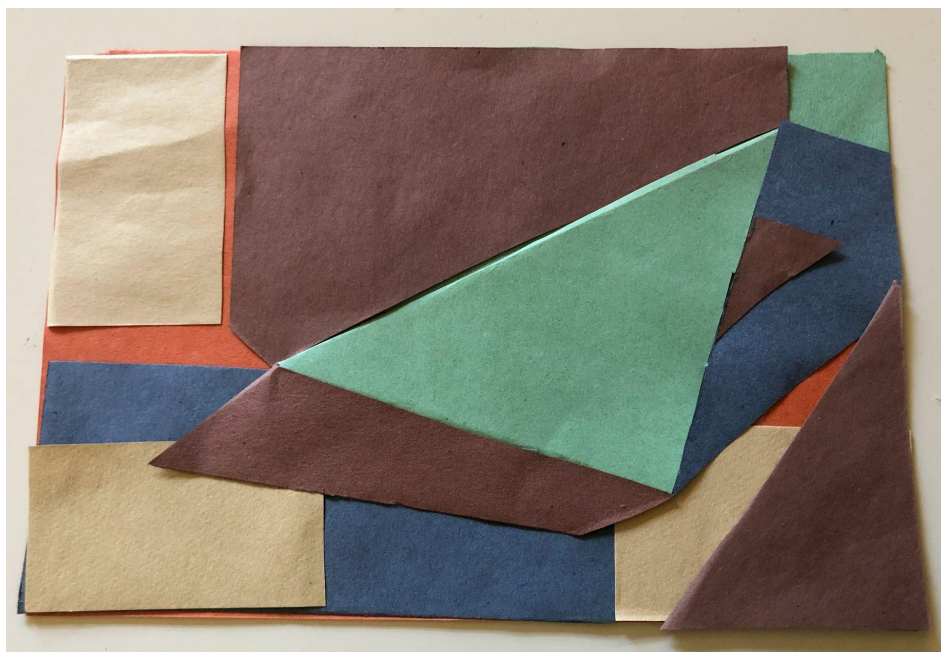
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Step 4:

Use your tape or glue stick to glue your shapes down and finish your square.

How does your family share stories and memories?



MORE INFORMATION FOR LOCAL QUILTERS:

Follow the [Quilters Of Color Network New York City](#) and the [Brooklyn Quilters Guild](#).

The Brooklyn Quilters Guild will be having a free outdoor quilt show on April 2nd (rain date: April 9th), 1-4pm at Holy Name of Jesus Church 245 Prospect Park West.