

# Creating your QUILT OF BELONGING

<b>Quilt Project to demonstrate the theme “A Place for All”</b>	<b>Grades: 9-12</b> <b>Subjects:</b> Art, Canadian and World Studies
<b>Expectations:</b> To create an individual block for a collective quilt involving art, history, geography and language skills and knowledge; using research, investigative and creative visual arts skills	<b>Learning Goals:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To develop aesthetic awareness</li><li>• To use the creative process</li><li>• To convey thoughts, feelings, and ideas through the arts</li><li>• To construct and analyze art works</li><li>• To understand cultural traditions and innovations</li><li>• To understand how human and natural processes have an impact on one another (trade and exchange, globalization, community, relationships)</li><li>• To understand how culture provides a conceptual framework for interpreting the world (spirituality/religion, ideology, economic and political systems, communication and language, community, education, migration, diversity)</li></ul>
<b>Big Ideas:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To explore and understand the diversity of cultures in the world, how they interact and how we as people belong to families, groups, communities and the world.</li><li>• To discuss how we as people can improve the lives of others within our community, culture and the world.</li><li>• To learn how art can be used to express and promote ideas.</li><li>• To understand how the knowledge and skills acquired through study in school can relate to life beyond school.</li></ul>	
<b>Relevance:</b> The aim is to explore how art can be used as a means of connecting people, expressing ideas and cultures and to discuss the concept of belonging in today’s world.	<b>Connections:</b> Students can investigate current news stories and historical events to discuss and research issues around acceptance, sharing of resources and the need to belong.
<b>The activity:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students will explore the theme of belonging and what this means for different people whether as individuals or as communities.</li><li>• They will investigate the diversity of people within their community and their cultural differences and similarities, as well as cultures worldwide.</li><li>• They will specifically look at the Quilt of Belonging resources (<a href="#">Textiles Tell our Tales</a>, on-line, video) to discuss the materials used and designs created and some of the accompanying stories people have told.</li><li>• Students will then make individual ‘blocks’ for inclusion in a class or school quilt</li><li>• They will explore the use of symbols, colours and shapes and then create their own ‘block’ to explore their own interpretation of the sense and value of belonging.</li><li>• The work is also intended to be collaborative project with the students bringing their work together to create a larger artwork. The more the students are involved in the planning and process the more value for them and the more creative will be the final outcome.</li></ul>	

**Learning Outcomes:**

Students will :

- deepen their appreciation of diverse perspectives
- learn about, accept and respect the identity of others and the differences among people.
- help them appreciate the culture of diverse peoples in Canada and First Nations.
- learn that people use the arts to record, celebrate their personal and collective stories and the values and traditions that make us unique as Canadians.
- develop the knowledge and values they need to become responsible, active and informed Canadian citizens
- develop skills such as critical thinking, research, and communication skills
- help in students' understanding of cultural interactions among groups of people

**Differentiated Instruction, Modifications and Accommodations (Assessment):**

Instead of, or in addition to, the visual art project, children can record or video their 'stories'

**Delivering the project. These are suggestions. This project can be spread over several lessons.**

- Ask students to investigate the meaning of 'belonging'.
- Explore some examples of how they experience a sense of belonging.
- Use some of the **additional activities** discuss the theme of belonging.
- Students will research *Quilt of Belonging* resources (on-line **Block-by-block, video, CCVS Powerpoint samples**) to discover how people represented themselves and their culture in the quilt blocks. Each student could select one block to explore and research. They should look at and list the ways that people used colours, shapes, images, symbols, textures and fabrics. They should research the background stories, information about the cultures and symbolism used.
- Students explore the **Textiles Tell our Tales**, investigating materials, textures, techniques, colours, shapes, geography and history. They can further research to see how the materials and designs are used elsewhere in different cultures.
- Students can research their own cultural background.
- They could create a 'world tree' in which they devise a way of showing the diversity and connectedness of cultures. Or they could explore a specific media such as music, film or television to show how that genre spreads, changes, develops and is influenced by other cultures around the world.
- Students could explore where in the world people belong or don't belong. They could discuss what they would like the concept of belonging to mean and how they might participate in making this happen.

## **Making your Quilt of Belonging:**

**(The instructions that follow are one suggestion. You may wish to do a related project using a different artistic medium such as music, performing arts, photography, writing, etc.)**

Preparation: Decide if you, and/or other teachers are going to collaborate together in the school (or within the school board). Using the laminated hexagon template provided in the kit, trace and cut enough card or paper hexagons for your class in as many bright colours as available. If doing multiple classes, have each class select a colour to represent that class.

Tell students they are going to make 'blocks' like *Quilt of Belonging* to assemble to make a quilt.

Give each student a piece of white paper, 8" x 8" (20cm x 20 cm) square.

Ask them to think about a design that shows that they belong. Consider materials, patterns, colours, and motifs that will best symbolize what they want to convey.

Create the image on the 8" (20cm) square.

Have the students paste their square on the hexagon as shown in the kit template.

Place all the students' work together with tape as per following examples. Discuss with the children what all the blocks represent.

To show in classroom or school, one suggestion is to fix the blocks to the wall of the class or gym either directly or onto a roll of dark paper or a large black cloth.

## **Example of Student Quilt**

