

Creating your QUILT OF BELONGING

Quilt I Project to demonstrate the theme “A Place for All”	Grades: 7 & 8 Subjects: Art, Language, History and Geography
Expectations: 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	Learning Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To engage in creative visual art activity• To understand diversity, cultural traditions and communities both locally and globally• To learn how people from diverse groups interact• To use maps, globes and graphs• To create collaborative work
Big Ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• To discuss how we as people can improve the lives of each other within the community, culture and the world.• To understand how art can be used to express and promote ideas.	
Relevance: The aim is to help students understand their responsibility for helping others to feel that they have worth and belong.	Connections: Students can investigate current news stories and historical events to discuss and research issues around acceptance, sharing of resources and the need to belong.
The activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will explore the theme of belonging – in their school, home, community• They will investigate the diversity of people within their community and their cultural differences and similarities, as well as cultures worldwide.• They will specifically look at the <i>Quilt of Belonging</i> resources (Block-by-block, on-line, video) to discuss the materials used and designs created and some of the accompanying stories people have told.• Students will then make individual paper ‘blocks’ for inclusion in a class or school quilt• They will explore the use of symbols, colours and shapes and then create their own picture for a ‘block’ on the theme of belonging.	
Learning Outcomes: Students will : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• develop and make images to communicate ideas• explain personal choices for particular image development and design strategies• collaborate to create a group project• discuss the diversity of ways of expressing one’s self• learn how to appreciate and respect each others differences as well as similarities	
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.

1. Ask students to investigate the meaning of 'belonging'.
2. Explore some examples of how each of us can feel we belong.
3. Use some of the **additional activities** to discuss this theme.
4. Students will research *Quilt of Belonging* resources (**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.
5. Students explore **Textiles Tell the Tales**, investigating: materials, textures, techniques, colours, shapes, geography and history.
6. Students ask their families where they, their parents, their grandparents and ancestors came from. Ask them to research foods, celebrations and customs from that country (including Canada). At school, students can put pins on a map to indicate their countries of origin. Discuss why people migrate or relocate to different places, or stay put.
7. Read and tell stories about people living in Canada and other parts of the world.

Making your Quilt of Belonging:

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 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.

Examples of Student Quilts

