

GEE'S BEND QUILT CRAFT

Gee's Bend quilts are a very special type of quilt. They are made by the women in a very small town called Gee's Bend in Alabama. The people who live in Gee's Bend are mostly descended from enslaved people.

The women have been making these special quilts for a very long time - since the early 1800's!

The quilts are so special because they represent a strong African American tradition of quilting and include the vibrant, patterned textiles of Africa.

The quilts are a way for the women to express themselves and tell stories - something the First Amendment protects through the freedom of speech.

The quilts are very beautiful and use a lot of colorful geometric shapes. Here are a few examples of them:

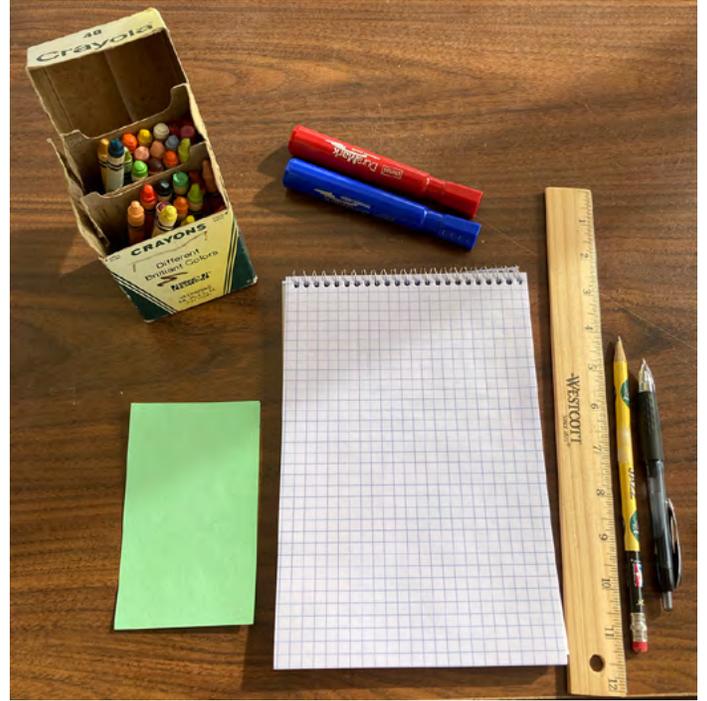


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Now it is your turn to try your hand at making a Gee's Bend Quilt.

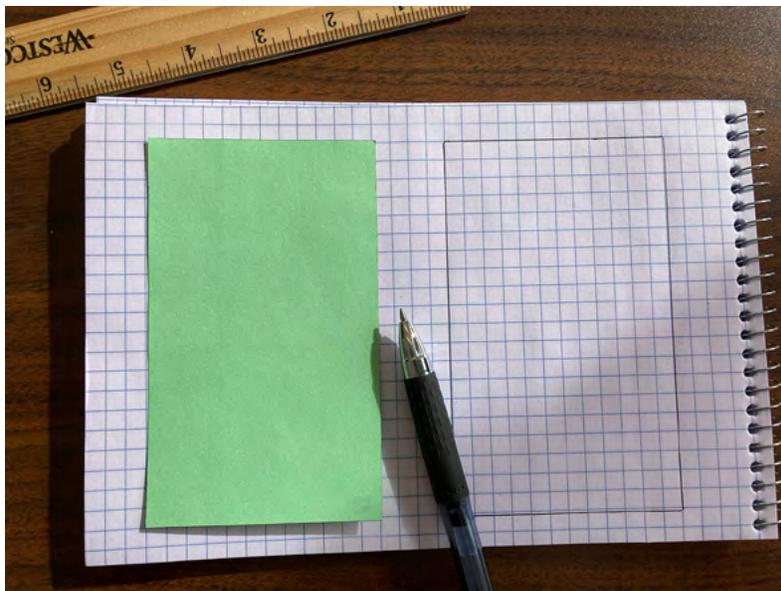
Materials needed:

- graph paper (if you do not have graph paper at home, you can print out graph paper sheet using [this link](#)).
- pencil or pen
- ruler
- color pencils, crayons, or markers
- an A4 sized notecard



Instructions:

1. Using the A4 card, trace rectangles onto the graph paper. Each rectangle represents a quilt.



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2. For each quilt rectangle, create your own design. You can use a ruler and the guideline of the graph paper to create geometric shapes. Think about a story you might want to tell.
3. Use your color pencil, marker, or crayon to color in the designs. Use a pencil or pen to outline shapes, if you want.
4. Try making different designs by using different shapes, sizes, patterns, and colors.
5. If you want, you can cut out each rectangle and tape them together to create a larger quilt.

Have fun! Here are some pattern examples:

