

The Nesting Quilt

RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS

STEAM-THEMED: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, MATH

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MATH THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Some ducks up north are fine through the winter months, but others fly south to find somewhere warmer to live during that time. Sharpen your eyes—it's time to go outside and count some feathered friends! Every year in February, the Great Backyard Bird Count takes place. To participate, go outside and observe birds in your area for at least 15 minutes on one or more days. Record what you see and enter it online at www.birdsource.org/gbbc/kids. Your observations help researchers know what types of birds are in your area during the winter.

It also helps them know if the bird population changes from year to year.



TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE, ENGINEERING FINE FEATHERED FILMS

Visit <http://cams.allaboutbirds.org> to watch live video of different birds and their nests. You can also watch archived videos from each nest. What materials seem to be most popular for nest building? Why might that be? What other observations can students make about each habitat?

ENGINEERING NEST CONSTRUCTION

Materials: natural materials, tweezers, clay, small paper plates, mud (optional)

Have each student collect natural materials (twigs, grass, leaves, etc.) that might be used in a nest. Flatten a small ball of clay on a paper plate as a base for each nest. Students will construct each nest using only tweezers, not their hands, to represent a bird's beak. When finished, students may use mud to glue the nest together.

What challenges did using just the tweezers present? What materials were easiest to build with? Hardest? Did this activity help students understand how birds make their nests?

ART CLASS COLORING QUILT

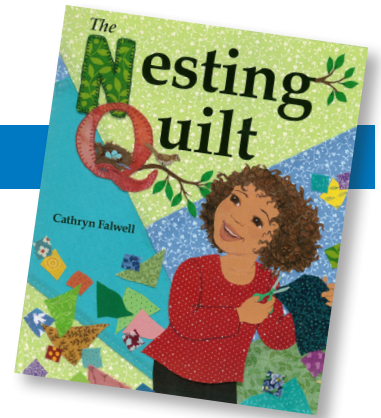
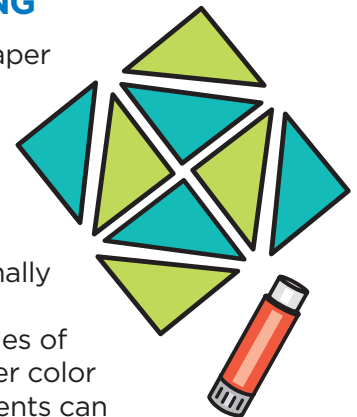
Materials: white bulletin board paper, colored masking tape, crayons

Cut a large square of white bulletin board paper. Tape the paper to the floor to secure. Use colored masking tape to mark off squares, at least one per student. Let students visit the "quilt" and choose a square to color with a design or a picture. When all the squares have been filled, trim the extra tape from the edges and hang the "quilt" as a classroom display.

MATH, ART GEOMETRIC QUILTING

Materials: construction paper triangles, glue sticks, quilt template (see attached)

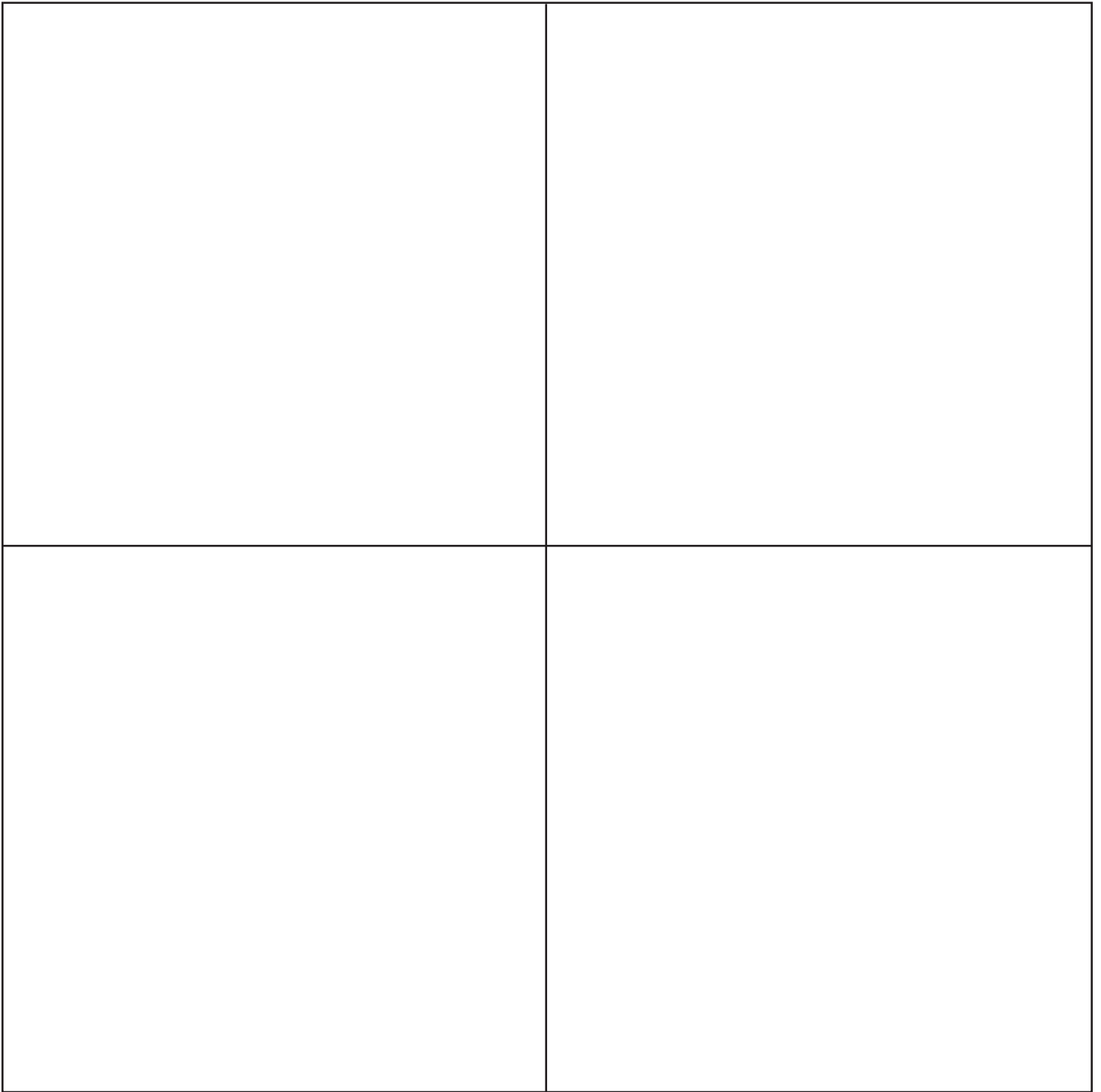
Cut 3.5 x 3.5 in. squares from construction paper; cut squares in half diagonally to form triangles. Have students choose 4 triangles of one color and 4 of another color for 8 total triangles. Students can experiment making different geometrical quilt designs using the quilt template. Students can use the glue stick to adhere their favorite design to the template. For an added challenge, cut the triangles in half again and have students choose 8 of each color for a total of 16 triangles.




Reading Is Fundamental

Geometric Quilting

USE THE  SHAPES TO CREATE YOUR OWN QUILT DESIGN!



How many  will fit in 1  ? _____

1/2 of my  are _____.

I used _____  to make my quilt.

1/2 of my  are _____.