

A FREEDOM QUILT COLLAGE

THE SIGNING of the Emancipation Proclamation gave hope to millions of enslaved people. Their story—from capture in Africa to backbreaking labor, forced separation of families, and desperate midnight flights—could end with freedom for them and their children.

Use collage, in the form of a quilt, to tell the story of American slavery. Why a quilt? For the

“safe quilts,” with secret codes stitched into their patterns, that were once hung outside homes along the Underground Railroad.

WHAT YOU NEED

- ✘ Notebook
- ✘ Pencil
- ✘ 30 sheets (approximately) of construction paper in a mix of colors
- ✘ Ruler
- ✘ Scissors
- ✘ Scraps of paper in different patterns and textures
- ✘ White glue
- ✘ 22-by-28-inch poster board
- ✘ Heavy books

Plan your design in your notebook. The collage here shows 12 scenes, including the continent of Africa, a runaway slave, Dred Scott, and black soldiers marching off to fight. You might choose other scenes and people: a slave market, the book *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Harriet Tubman, or Frederick Douglass. Sketch each scene.

Pick out 12 sheets of construction paper in your favorite colors. Using ruler and pencil, draw

a 6-by-6-inch square on each. Cut the squares out.

Start with the first scene. In pencil, lightly draw the elements of the scene onto pieces of construction paper and colored scrap paper. Cut out the pieces of paper. Arrange the papers on the square before gluing. When you're satisfied with the way it looks, pick up each piece and put a small amount of glue on the back, then stick it in place on its square. Repeat for each square.

Arrange the 12 squares evenly on the poster board, then glue into place. Carefully put some heavy books on top of the poster and let them sit for a few hours to flatten the collage.

