

Creating your QUILT OF BELONGING

Quilt of Belonging School Project to demonstrate the theme “A Place for All”	Grade: Kindergarten to Grade 6 Subjects: Art, Language and Social Studies
Expectations: To create an individual block for a collective quilt involving art, social studies and language skills and knowledge	Learning Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To engage in creative visual art activity• To understand and have a sense of diversity• To foster curiosity and the skills to investigate• To develop reading and understanding skills• To communicate ideas through art forms
Big Ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To help develop a sense of one’s self in the world and begin to understand and appreciate other people and their place in the world• To use colour, shapes and patterns to tell a story and express a mood.	
Relevance: To aim is to try to help children describe who they are, how they feel that they belong, and how they can make other people feel they belong.	Connections: Children realize that they are each unique, but at the same time, all need to feel they are wanted and belong. Discuss situations where they could help others feel they belong: e.g. starting school for the first time, going into a new classroom, joining a group playing a game.
The activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children will explore the theme of belonging – in school, home, community.• They will discuss and find out how different people live, go to school, dress, celebrate and make art.• They will specifically look at <i>Quilt of Belonging</i> resources (video, Block-by-block) to discuss the materials and designs created and some of the accompanying stories people have told.• The children will then make individual paper ‘blocks’ for inclusion in a class or school quilt, thinking about how they feel they belong. e.g. showing their family, celebrating a special event or festival, wearing certain clothes, being with friends, playing certain games, eating certain foods, etc.	
Learning Outcomes: Children 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 oneself.• 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 children about the word 'belonging' and what it means.
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. Children will look at *Quilt of Belonging* resources (**Textiles Tell our Tales, Block-by-block, video, samples**) choosing blocks they like and discovering who created them.
5. Discuss how people are diverse: e.g. different foods, or celebrations etc. and children's own experiences. Read and tell stories about children living in Canada and other parts of the world.
6. Children could bring in something from home that they think is special and there could be a display in the classroom.

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

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

Ask them to think about an image showing that they belong. Remind them of the *Quilt of Belonging* blocks. Get children to think about size, patterns, colours, stories they want to show.

Draw or paint the image onto the 8" (20cm.) square.

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

Place all the children's 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

