

The Quiltmakers of Gee's Bend

The patchwork quilt is a practical craft where scraps and remnants of fabric are joined to create a functional quilt. In the small community of Gee's Bend, Alabama, this craft has been elevated to a fine art. Since the early 1900s, generations of African American women in this community have been making quilts in an improvisational style that is all their own. These incredible quilts have been hailed as a form of distinctly American art and have been shown in museums around the world.



Read about the history of Gee's Bend quiltmakers here.
WEBSITE: [smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/fabric-of-their-lives-132757004/](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/fabric-of-their-lives-132757004/)



SCAN ME



Image source: news.artnet.com/app/news-upload/2020/01/GettyImages-2996674-1024x536.jpg

Instructions: Create a collage in the style of the Gee's Bend quiltmakers. This resource (soulsgrowndeep.org/gees-bend-quiltmakers) has some great images of quilts to inspire you!

You will need the following materials for your collage:

- Support paper or other backing material for your collage
- Pencil
- Glue/adhesive
- Scissors
- Recycled paper scraps (e.g. magazines, newspapers, etc.)

Step 1: Divide your support paper or backing into a grid with at least six separate sections. Mark the sections with your pencil, but don't take out a ruler to measure—you want to allow for some irregular lines and shapes.

Step 2: Select scrap papers that have colors or patterns you want to work with. Cut out small shapes that will fit into each section of your grid.


Step 3: Arrange the shapes on your support paper, composing one section at a time. When you are happy with the arrangement, glue the pieces down. Don't shy away from surprising juxtapositions of color and pattern!

Go Further: Turn your collage into a collaboration. Cut out the different sections of your support paper in step one and distribute them to your family and friends. Have each person create their own collage and then return it to you. The individual collages can be collected and combined into one larger piece.

Make Your Own Kind of Music


When was the last time you really listened to the sounds in your environment? With a little resourcefulness, we can make music out of anything—even the sounds around us.

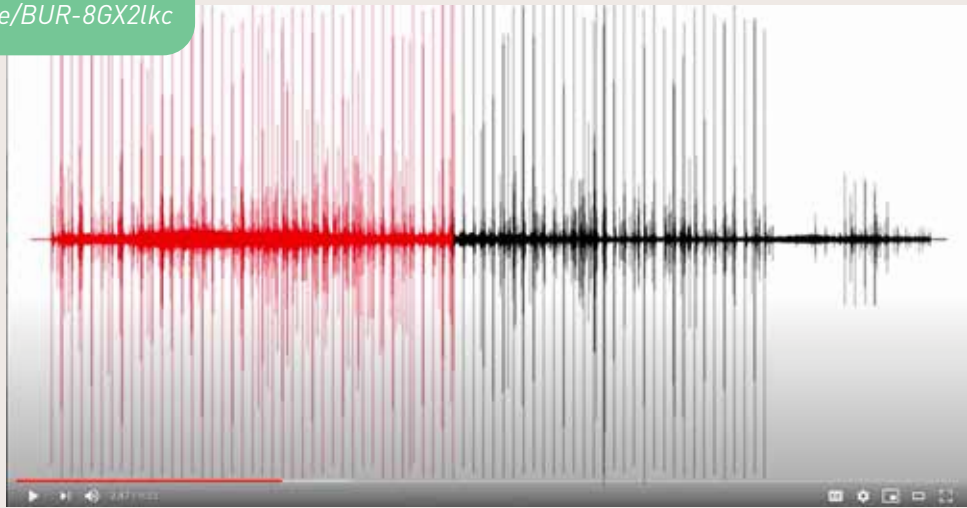
This week’s activity is inspired by *The Art Assignment!* Watch this episode from 2014 entitled “Find Your Band.”

 Check out the video here.
WATCH: youtu.be/_jTqNfLmtHk



Complete the assignment by making your own improvised band. For inspiration, some great solutions to the assignment are collected in the video below.

 Check out the video here.
WATCH: youtu.be/BUR-8GX2lkc



Reflect: What is the difference between listening and hearing? How can learning to listen positively affect your own music?

Students! Answering our questions? Using our strategies? Share them with us at discovery@worldstrides.com.