



A 3rd grade Arts-Infused Social Studies Lesson
using

Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt

By: Demetri L. Brown, M.Ed. Antionette Clyburn Seandra Molden

This project is funded in part by the South Carolina Arts Commission which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

This project is also funded in part by the South Carolina Department of Education.



Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt **by D. Hopkinson & J. Ransome**

Recommended for Grade Levels: 3 - 5

Social Studies Standards:

Key Concept: Culture and Economy

3.4.3.AG Research and create a geographic representation of a contemporary or historic group of people to communicate findings about their cultural characteristics and livelihoods.

Visual and Performing Arts Standards:

Artistic Processes: Creating- I can make artwork using a variety of materials, techniques, and processes.

Anchor Standard 1: I can use the elements and principles of art to create artwork.

Benchmark VA.CR AL.1: I can create, refine, and communicate ideas based on the elements and principles of design and other compositional strategies and structures.

Other academic standards this lesson addresses: ELA, Math, Science

Class Size/Space Size: Whole Class or small group / Regular classroom size

Time Required: Two days

Resources: LCD projector, Smartboard, Chart Paper, Easel Pad, Markers, Virtual Alternatives

Technology:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6mbgenJxgJA&t=2s> - (Read-aloud of the book)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VksmOor_aLs - (Underground Railroad video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjBZEMkmwYA> - (*Follow The Drinking Gourd* sung by Eric Bibb)

Vocabulary: seamstress overseer runaways plantation quilt

Students' Learning Objective:

- Identify the various uses for quilts and describe the significance of Clara's quilt. Enhance understanding of the Underground Railroad

- Create a problems/solutions/events chart for *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt*

- Apply mapping skills to make a "quilt map" showing their route from home to school

- Using measurement and geometric shapes to construct quilt pieces

- Using constellations and stars to help students show what was used for guidance during escape from enslavement in the U.S.

Lesson Plan/Instructional Plan:

TW: Show students a quilt and discuss the following questions with them:

How is a quilt made?

What material is used to make a quilt?

Where does the cloth come from?

What are quilts used for?

Record students' oral responses on chart paper.

Lesson Steps:

- Students will view the cover of the book and make predictions about the book. For example, what do you think this book is going to talk about?
- Students use prior knowledge(KWL) on what they may know about U.S. enslavement.
- Teacher will read the title of the book and begin the read-aloud of *Sweet Clara and The Freedom Quilt*.
- After listening to the story and retelling of events to show understanding of the story, students will be divided into two groups. One group can work on the sequence-of-events activity and the other group can begin working on the quilt art activity. Students will need to include a hidden message in their quilts relating to what Clara saw in the story.
- Allow at least 10 to 15 minutes before rotation.

Assessment ideas/Evaluation Documents:

- Students will have sharing time of their quilts and explain the meaning of how they will tell stories using the constellations and landmarks.

Additional Literature:

- *Hidden in Plain View* by: **Jacqueline Tobin**
- *The Patchwork Path* by: **Bettye Stroud**
- *Henry's Freedom Box* by: **Ellen Levine**
- *The Drinking Gourd* written by: **Jeanette Winter**
- *The Patchwork Quilt* written by: **Valarie Flourney**

Lyrics to *Follow The Drinking Gourd* written by Eric Bibb and Linda Tillery

Follow the drinkin' gourd

Follow the drinkin' gourd

For the old man is comin' just to carry you to freedom

Follow the drinkin' gourd

When the sun comes back, and the first quail calls

Follow the drinkin' gourd

For the old man is waiting just to carry you to freedom

Follow the drinkin' gourd

Follow the drinkin' gourd

Follow the drinkin' gourd

For the old man is waiting to carry you to freedom

Follow the drinkin' gourd

Well the river bank makes a mighty good road

Dead trees will show you the way

Left foot, peg foot, travelin' on

Follow the drinkin' gourd

Follow the drinkin' gourd

Follow the drinkin' gourd

For the old man is waiting to carry you to freedom

Follow the drinkin' gourd

Well the river ends, between two hills

Follow the drinkin' gourd

There's another river on the other side

Follow the drinkin' gourd

Follow the drinkin' gourd

Follow the drinkin' gourd

For the old man is waiting to carry you to freedom

Follow the drinkin' gourd

(continued on next page)

Well, where the great big river meets the little river

Follow the drinkin' gourd

The old man is waiting to carry you to freedom

Follow the drinkin' gourd

Follow the drinkin' gourd

Follow the drinkin' gourd

For the old man is waiting to carry you to freedom

Follow the drinkin' gourd

For the old man is waiting just to carry you to freedom

If you follow the drinkin' gourd.