



# Understanding Quilting and Patchwork

## Make Do and Mend

### Lesson Plan

**Total Time:** 1.5 hours (up to 2 hours with a class over 30 students)

**Aimed at:** KS2

#### For this lesson, you will need:

Make Do and Mend Worksheets (download in the 'Library' section)

Sewing in Wartime Timeline (as a Teacher's Guide)

Textile Treasures Loans Box (containing 2 WW2 quilts and handling samples)

Fabric scraps or pieces of coloured paper

Pencils, scissors and glue (fabric glue is better if using fabric scraps)

String

#### Learning Objectives

To learn how people lived during WW2 and how it has impacted on Britain today

To investigate and speak about textile-based object

To make observations and simple comparisons with modern textile

To develop empathy and understanding of people in living wartime

To learn new techniques for creating artwork with different materials

To work in groups to produce a useful textile for the home

To understand what is involved in effective listening

To listen and respond to others

To develop skills of discussion, negotiation and cooperation in a group

## Before you start...

Set out your classroom so students can work in groups of no more than 6.

The groups will rotate around five activities which are best kept in a tray to make sure nothing is lost throughout the lesson.

Keep the 2 wartime quilts and replica handling samples from your loans box, worksheets and activity trays out ready to use at the right moment.

## Introduction

Begin the session with a quick 'question and answer' session to remind students of the key facts about the Second World War e.g. Dates, Allies/Axis Powers, what did the Government do to make sure people had enough food/clothing? (Rationing—use the Sewing in Wartime Timeline for information - **5 minutes**)

**Introduce what a quilt is by showing the class a quilt from the box. Tell them they're going to take part in a quilt quiz - but at the end you will ask them an extra question - 'Why are so many of these quilts made from small pieces of fabric?'**

## Activity (10 minutes)

Play the 'Quilt Quiz' PowerPoint presentation and encourage students to decide their answers as a group.

**Teacher's note:** The quilts shown in the quiz are the same ones as your loans box. If students have specific questions about their quilts ask them to write down or remember their questions for the end. Ask your question at the end (answer - many quilt makers use recycled fabrics. During rationing, people had very little fabric available to make quilts).

## The 'Make Do and Mend' Mission!

In this part of the lesson students should work in groups and have access to pencils and worksheets.

## Activity - Ration Fashion (15 minutes)

Using the worksheet, students should invent a wartime character and design their own wartime wardrobe for themselves (from 66 coupons). It's up to students to decide if they will spend all their coupons in one go or save some for later.

**When students have completed the 'Ration Fashion' activity they should put their worksheets to one side but keep their pencils.**

### **'Help From Abroad' Activity - (15 minutes)**

Using one the 'Miss Treeby' Red Cross Quilt from your 'Textile Treasures' Loans Box, ask the class to look at the quilt for clues which tell them how old it might be, how it was made and what it was made from. Tell them a bit about the quilt (see the object description sheet in the Loans Box) and explain where the quilt came from. **(5 minutes)**

Now ask students to pick up a 'Help from Abroad' worksheet and explain that they will use the quilt as inspiration for their own quilt poem. **(15 minutes)**

**Bring the class back together for the next activity. This activity aims to get students thinking about 'making do' at home during the war.**

### **Make Do and Mend Quiz Activity (15 minutes)**

Explain that the next activity is a quiz where working as team is really important. Choose one student to be a Quiz Master who should stand at the front and ask questions. Give each table a True and False card which they should hold up when they hear the question. You will need to give a clock countdown for each answer and ask the Quiz Master to reveal the correct answer.

(To make the game really authentic, why not give your Quiz Master a typically showbusiness introduction and round of applause! You can also keep a tally of scores).

**When the quiz is finished, collect in the True/False cards and hand out the bunting template worksheets and fabric scraps/coloured paper.**

### **Make Do and Mend Bunting Activity (30 minutes)**

Students now have the opportunity to make their own piece of bunting for a VE Day Celebration. Explain that when people heard that the war was over, they decorated their streets with flags and bunting and had street parties. Using fabric or coloured paper in small pieces (like the wartime quilts in the box), students should decorate their bunting flag. When finished, they cut out their flag and use some string to attach their flags together. They could decorate their flags with wartime slogans or even draw their own stitches between fabric/paper pieces.

To finish, why not string up the bunting in your classroom or around a display board?