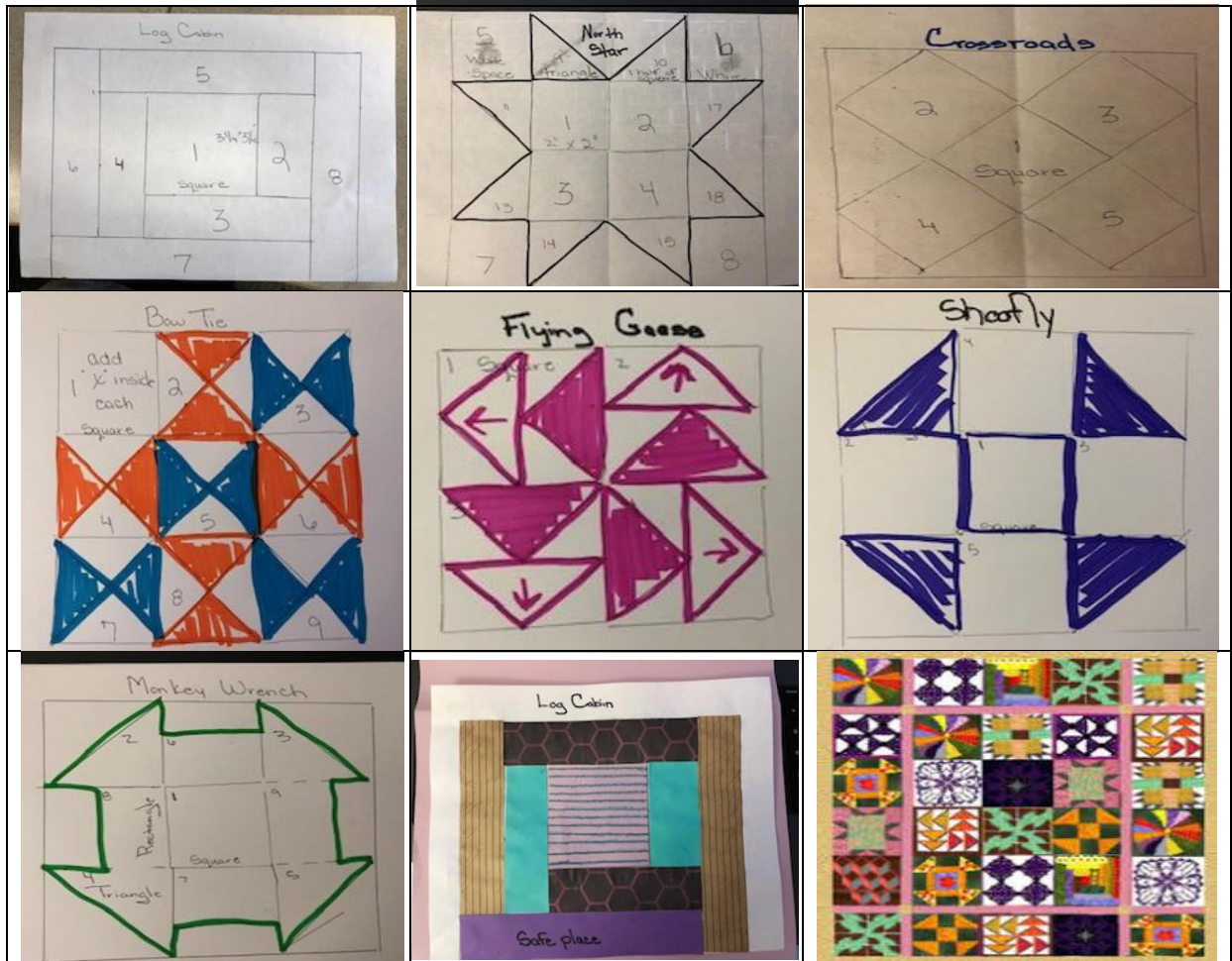


This is Ms. Susan from the Shorewood Public Library. Our project this week celebrates Black History Month. It was over two hundred years ago that enslaved African Americans took the dangerous journeys to freedom. They were aided by people who opposed slavery and created the Underground railroad system. Some historians believe that people used coded quilt patterns which contained messages to guide the fleeing slaves. The Underground Railroad is a story of human courage, endurance, and the belief of individual freedom. We can remember and honor the accomplishments and contributions of African-Americans through our art. We will create a quilt pattern and participate in preserving our American history.



1-Choose one of the coded quilt squares you would like to recreate. On paper or cardboard, using colored paper, fabric, crayons, or markers make the squares you see in one of the examples on the next page. Most of the patterns start with a square, and then add rectangles and triangles to make a symbol for the Underground Railroad code words. See all quilt square codes here- <http://mathwire.com/quilts/quilts.html>.

2-Share with family or friends, the history of the Underground Railroad. Write on your square, the name of your quilt pattern and a few words about the square. Send your finished "block" to the library in the enclosed envelope, we will put them together to make a Shorewood Library freedom quilt. You can put the envelope in the book-return drop slot or bring it into the library during open hours.

Thank you for sharing and be well

Ms. Susan

Underground Railroad quilt square codes

North Star-follow the North star to help navigate the way to freedom.

Monkey Wrench-signal for fleeing slaves to gather tools, both real and mental, necessary to use on the journey to freedom.

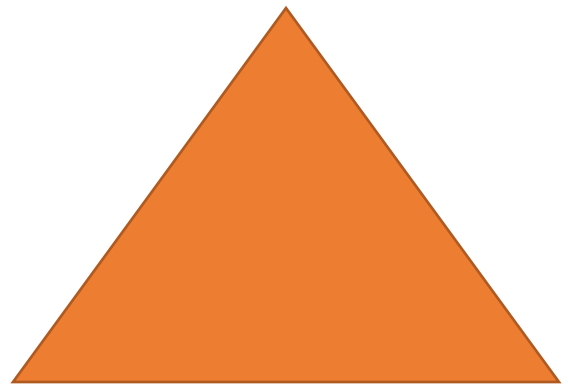
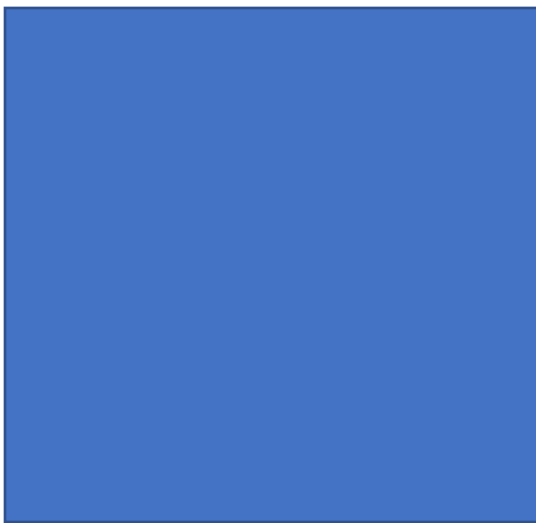
Flying Geese-arrows show direction to the North and let those traveling know they were on the right path towards freedom.

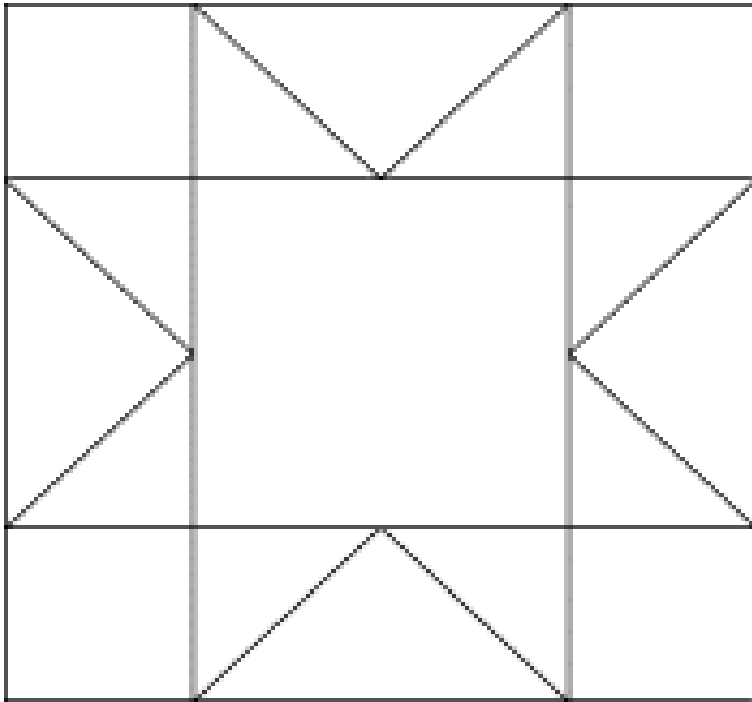
Crossroads-safe passage/signifies reaching a point where a person's life will change, so one must be willing to go on the journey.

Bow Tie-time to change your clothes and dress so others would not know they were a slave.

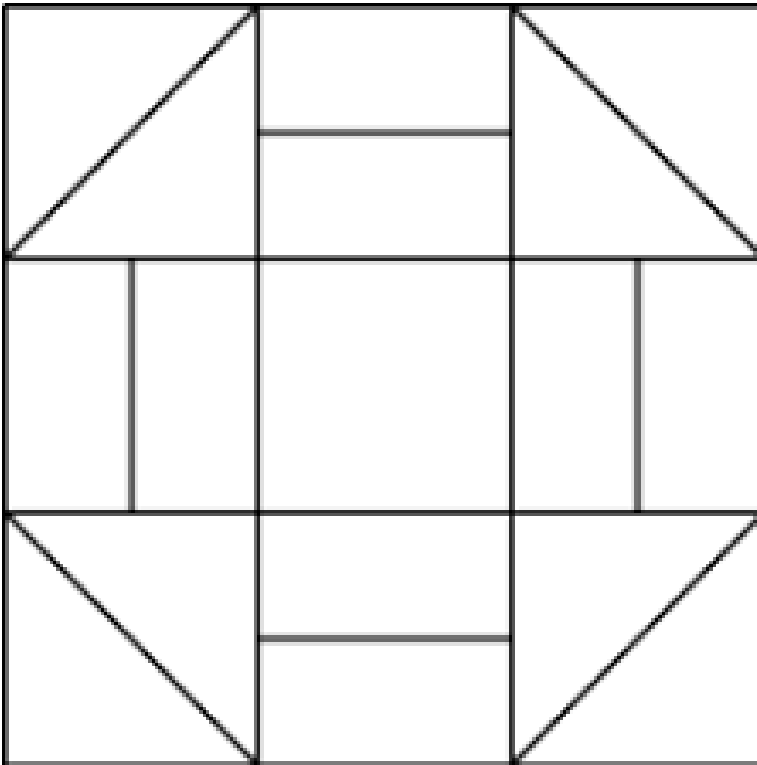
Shoofly-identifies a person who knows the codes and can guide the slaves to escape to freedom.

Log Cabin-Safe house/symbol that represents person is safe to talk to.

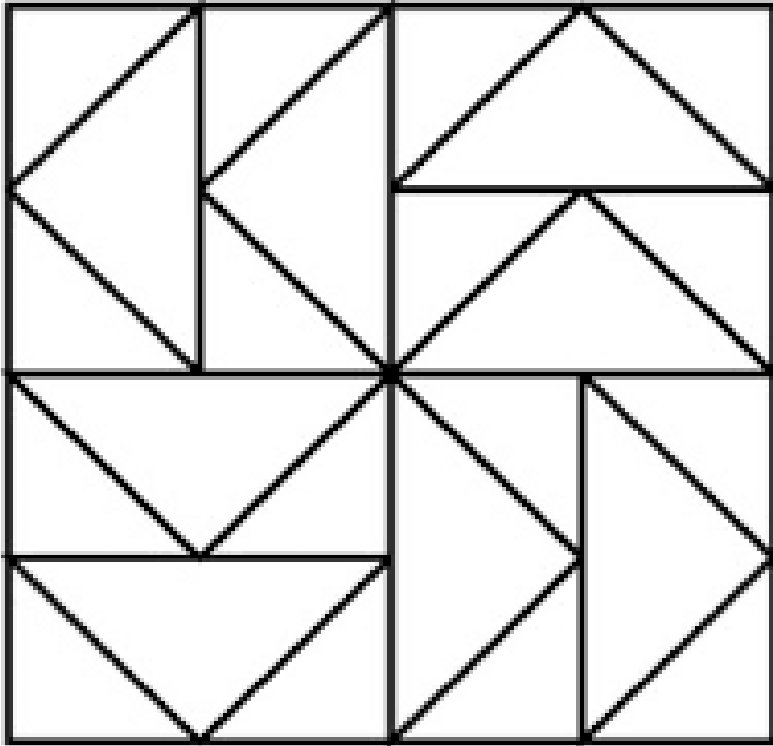




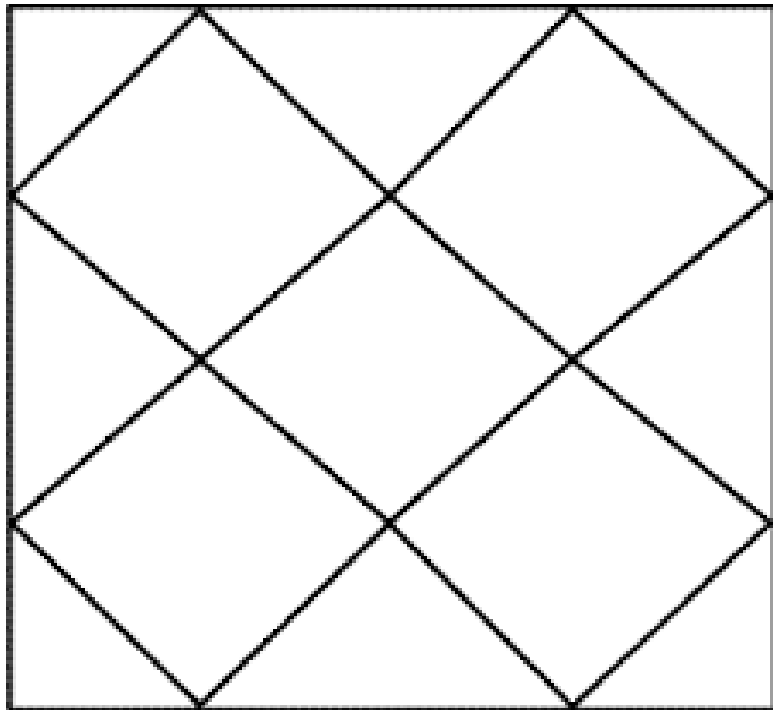
North Star



Monkey Wrench



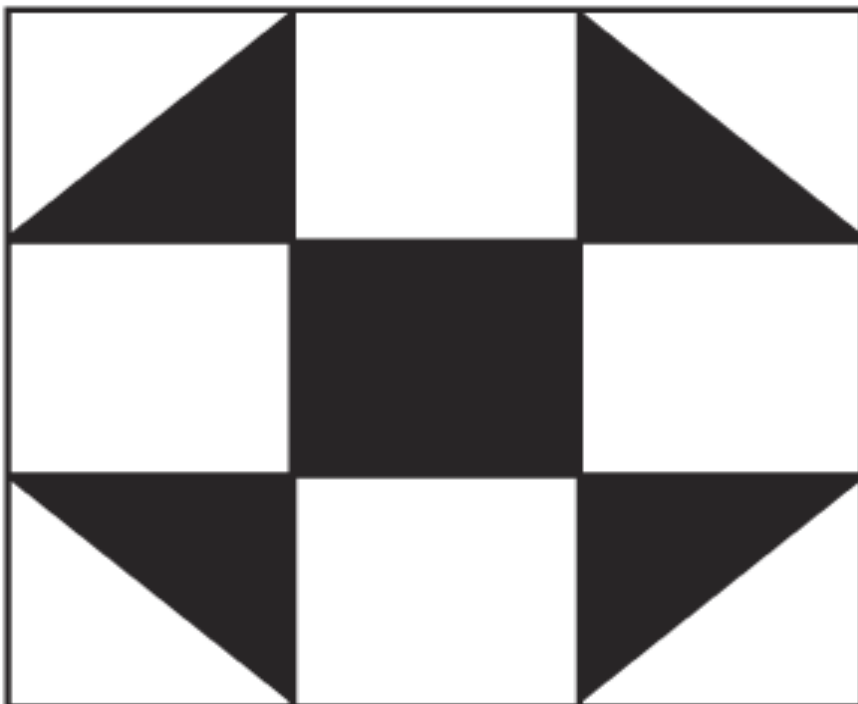
Flying Geese



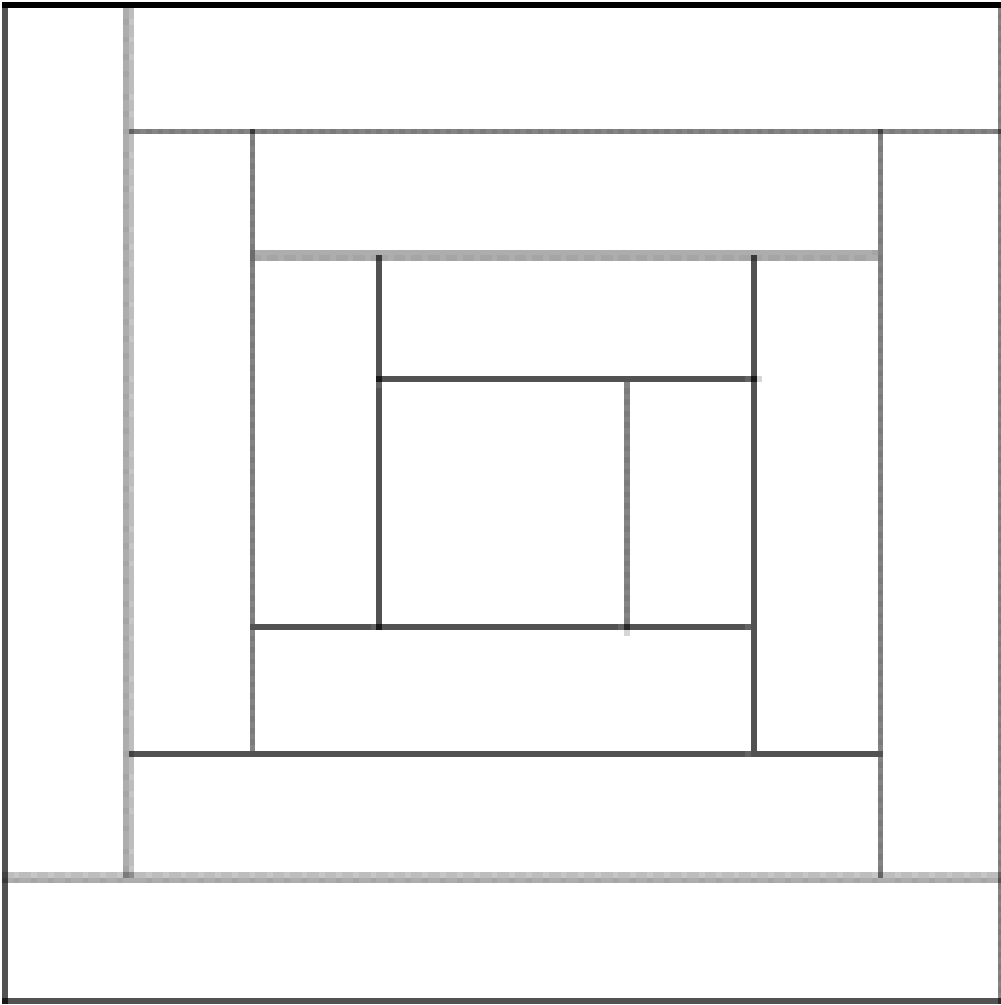
Crossroads



Bowtie



Shoofly



Log Cabin