

Famous Philanthropists

A Secret Code! Patterned quilts hanging outside houses sent messages to enslaved people seeking freedom in the North via the Underground Railroad. See if you can pick out the patterns called "Crossroads," "Flying Geese," "Snoo Fly" and "North Star" (answers on back).

Underground Railroad

Sojourner Truth



(1797? – 1883)
While enslaved, Sojourner Truth was known as Isabella Baumtree. When freed, she traveled around the country inspiring people with her lectures about civil rights for African Americans and women.

Harriet Tubman



(1820? – 1913)
Born enslaved, Harriet fled to the North for her freedom. For 10 years she was a conductor on the Underground Railroad helping more than 300 enslaved people gain their freedom, too.

Rosa Parks



(1913 -)
Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in 1955. In defense of her Constitutionally protected rights, African Americans began a year-long boycott of the Montgomery, Alabama bus system.

Bus Boycott

Martin Luther King, Jr.



(1929 – 1968)
A civil rights leader in the 50s and 60s, King's work set the standard for effective nonviolent action. His "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963 moved a nation to understand the importance of civil rights within the framework of democracy.

Civil Rights

"Everyday" Philanthropists



Mat Dawson

(1921 – 2002)
During his 60-year career at Ford Motor Company in Detroit, Mat Dawson worked overtime and invested his money. This forklift operator and "everyday" philanthropist gave away over \$1 million to provide scholarships for deserving college students. Dawson said, "I just want people to say that I tried to help somebody."

You don't need to be famous to help other people. You don't have to have lots of money to make a difference. Giving your time and talents for the common good makes you an "everyday philanthropist," too!

What do you care about — the environment, animal welfare, children who are hungry? You CAN make the world a better place!

YOU as Philanthropist



Ideas for Displaying This Poster:

- Hang the poster on a bulletin board.

- Have students recreate some of the freedom quilt patterns with scraps of colored paper.

- Display student-created quilt squares around perimeter of poster.

OR

- Have students write one-page reports on African American philanthropists, civil rights milestones, or information about the Underground Railroad. Hang student reports around the poster.

Additional Activities:

- Make a Venn diagram and compare the life and work of two African American philanthropists.

- Make a timeline of events from the Underground Railroad or the bus boycott or another significant event in the history of civil rights. Include the names of significant people in the effort.

- Have students design a stamp for one of the people or events about which they have learned.

Learning to Give Resources

Find out more about African American philanthropists by visiting the **Learning to Give** Web site at www.learningtogive.org

Access Lessons and Briefing Papers about African Americans who dared to believe in "the power of one." Click on the **"Resource Room,"** then **"Perspectives/African American."**

African American Philanthropists

Brief Biographies

Sojourner Truth (1797? - 1883) While enslaved, Sojourner Truth was known as Isabella Baumfree. When she was freed, she traveled around the country lecturing. She was a dynamic speaker who inspired many people with her manner. She fought for civil rights for African Americans and women. She empowered others to join her fight.

Harriet Tubman (1820-1913) was born enslaved and ran north for her freedom. Then for 10 years she was a conductor on the Underground Railroad. She risked her life by repeatedly returning to the south (19 times) escorting more than 300 enslaved people to freedom. She was known as the Moses of her people. Tubman was a spy for the Union Army during the Civil War. She continued to fight for justice long after the war.

Madam C.J. Walker (1867-1919) was born Sara Breedlove. She was very poor, but worked very hard. She developed and sold hair conditioner to Black women. Over time she developed her own business that brought her great wealth and employed many African-American women in meaningful work. She was the first black woman millionaire. She inspired many people with her dedication to political causes that sought to bring opportunities and equality to African Americans. She once said, "But we must not let our love of country, our patriotic loyalty cause us to abate one whit in our protest against wrong and injustice." She set the standard for corporate and community giving in the African American community.

Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929 - 1968) was a civil rights leader from the 1950s and 60s. His work leading the Montgomery Bus Boycott set the standard for effective nonviolent action. In 1963, King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech at the march on Washington. The march convinced the Kennedy administration to pass federal legislation to ensure that African Americans had the rights promised them in the tenants of democracy. He won the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1964 honoring his work with civil rights.

Worksheet for Grades 3-5

Read about African-American philanthropists. Choose one person and answer the following questions about his/her life and work

What is the philanthropist's name?

When did s/he live?

What did s/he give?

How did s/he give it?

For what is this person most known?

How did/do people respond to this person and his/her work?

What difficulties did s/he encounter?

What were his/her opportunity costs?

How would your life be different without the work of this person?

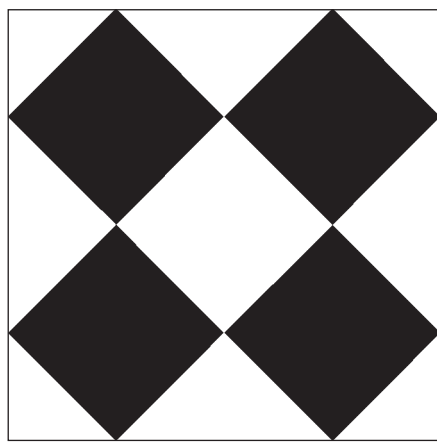
Secret Codes!

Note to Teachers: Go to www.learningtogive.org, click on **"Teaching Materials,"** then **"K-2,"** Unit Title: **"Freedom, Fairness and Philanthropy"**

OR

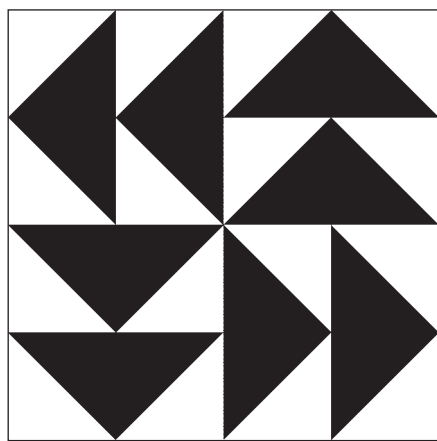
"Teaching Materials," then **"3-5,"** Unit Title: **"Traditions"**

Quilt Patterns Used as Messages for the Underground Railroad



Crossroads

The Crossroads pattern usually referred to Cleveland, Ohio, a destination offering several routes to freedom, or Cincinnati, Ohio, the place to cross the Ohio River to safety. From these crossroads, enslaved people could continue north to Canada. This term also signifies reaching a point where a person's life will change, so one must be willing to continue the journey.



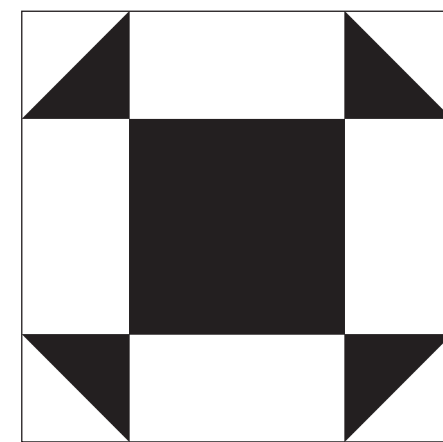
Flying Geese

This pattern points to a direction to follow, such as where geese would fly during spring migration. "Flying geese" gave clues to directions, timing, and behavior for escaping enslaved people, such as, "Geese fly North in the spring or summer. They stop at waterways to eat and rest." One fabric different than the others was used to indicate a safe direction to travel.

Ralph Abernathy (1926 - 1990) was a minister in Montgomery, Alabama in the 1950s and a civil rights advocate. He became widely known after the success of the Montgomery Bus Boycotts in 1955-56. In 1957, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Abernathy formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) which was committed to using nonviolence as a means to social change. Abernathy directed several nonviolent marches and strikes and led Operation Breadbasket, which used economic pressure against companies that did not provide equal opportunities to blacks.

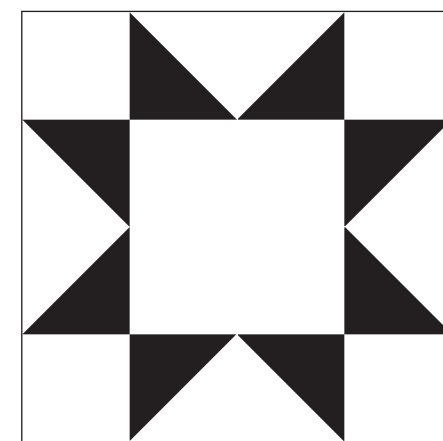
Rosa Parks (1913 -) Called the "mother of the civil rights movement," Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in 1955. In defense of her Constitutionally protected rights, African Americans began a year-long boycott of the Montgomery, Alabama bus system.

Tiger Woods (1975 -) has been an inspiration to many young people. As his father says, "Tiger is a great golfer, but he is a much better person." Tiger has always wanted to make a difference in the lives of others and he is doing more than giving his money away; he is taking an active part in touching the lives of America's youth. He has established the Tiger Woods Foundation with the goal of empowering young people to reach their highest potential by initiating and supporting community-based programs that promote the health, education and welfare of all of America's children. To start the foundation, Tiger Woods gave \$500,000, but more importantly, Tiger has committed his own time and energy toward working with young people in ways money cannot buy.



Shoo Fly

Shoo Fly actually referred to a person who might aid runaways, or free Blacks who were secretly aiding and harboring fugitives. This pattern indicated that someone would be there to help the runaway.



North Star

Follow the stars North, North to freedom. This pattern worked in conjunction with the popular song, "Follow the Drinking Gourd," a reference to the Big Dipper constellation. The evening star pattern was a message to travel at night and to follow the North Star.

African American Nonprofit Organizations

Links, Inc., which was founded in 1946, is an organization of over 10,000 women who are individual achievers and have made a difference in their communities. They are role models, mentors, activists and volunteers who work toward the realization of the vision for African Americans. The Links, Inc. funds initiatives to find talented minority youth and give them resources to succeed. They also fund drug prevention programs, arts, and other programs related to persons of African descent worldwide.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded in 1909 by a multiracial group of people with the primary goal of protecting and enhancing the civil rights of African Americans and other minorities. Their mission is to take a proactive stance to increase the public's awareness of restraints of freedom, assaults upon civil rights, and barriers to equality. They have been active in many major civil-rights issues over the years. Among other efforts, the NAACP provides college and other assistance for youth. They have a strong lobbying group that works to affect legislation. And they empower African Americans to register to vote.

One Hundred Black Men is an organization with the mission of improving the quality of life in their communities and enhancing educational and economic opportunities for all African Americans. The organization began in 1963 in New York with the goal of pooling their resources and implementing programs locally. Now the organization has touched the lives of over 60,000 African Americans and is represented across the country.

United Negro College Fund was established in 1944. Its mission is to enhance the quality of education by providing financial assistance to deserving students, raising operating funds for member colleges and universities, and increasing access to technology for students and faculty at historically Black colleges and universities. UNCF is the nation's oldest and most successful African American education assistance organization.

Color Your Own Quilt Squares!

Identify and color the quilt squares below.

