

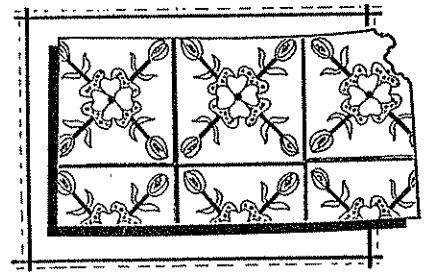
# LESSON 2

## TOPIC

Our Patchwork Past: A Story of Quilts in Kansas History

## TIME

30 minutes



## MATERIALS FROM THE TRUNK

Video - "Our Patchwork Past: A Story of Quilts in Kansas History"

## OBJECTIVES

- 1) Students will be able to discuss why quilts can be viewed as an important part of Kansas history.
- 2) Students will be able to list a variety of uses the pioneers had for quilts.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

This lesson is designed to give an overview of the role quilts played in Kansas history. The video deals with some of the major issues in the state's history. The script of "Our Patchwork Past" can be found in the back of this manual. For a more comprehensive look at Kansas history, see Robert W. Richmond's *Kansas: A Land of Contrasts* (Arlington Heights, Ill.: Forum Press, Inc., 1989).

## VOCABULARY

Applique	A cutout decoration stitched to a larger piece of material.
Cheesecloth	A very light weight, unsized cotton gauze.
Counterpane	Another name for bedspread, can refer to a quilt.
Embroidery	Using needlework to form decorative designs on cloth.

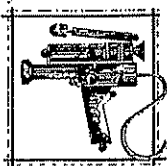
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Great Depression	A period in U.S. history, the 1930s, when great numbers of people were out of work due to a poor economy.
Feed Sack	A fabric bag used by grain companies to hold flour and feed.
Piecing	To sew together pieces of fabric to form a quilt top.
Quilting Bee	The gathering of a group of quilters to work on a quilt.
Quilting Frame	The frame a quilt is put in to stretch the three layers flat while it is quilted.
Reservation	An area of land determined by the federal government to be a sovereign nation governed by a specific Indian tribe.

### *ACTIVITIES*

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1) Explain to the students that quilts are a part of our cultural heritage. Quilts have been part of our history since before Kansas became a state.



2) Share the video, "Our Patchwork Past: A Story of Quilts in Kansas History" with the students. The video runs 18 minutes.

3) Have the students discuss the information presented in the video. The following are possible discussion questions.

- Why do you think quilt designs have changed over time?
- Why was the invention of the cotton gin in 1793 important?
- Why were travelers in the 1840s unable to settle in the area known today as Kansas?
- Why were quilts important to early settlers of Kansas?
- How were quilts used by the pioneers?
- What role did the railroad play in helping women make quilts in early Kansas?
- What kind of things were made of feed sacks in the 1930s?
- Why would people trade feed sacks?
- Why do people make quilts?

### *ASSESSMENT*

Levels of Achievement

For Objective 1

- a) Students recognize to a limited extent the importance of quilts.
- b) Students demonstrate the importance of quilts in a historical context.

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For Objective 2

- a) Students are able to list one or two uses that pioneers had for quilts.
- b) Students are able to list three or more uses that pioneers had for quilts.

### *EXTENDED ACTIVITIES*

#### 1) RESEARCH PROJECT:

Encourage the students to pick a topic in Kansas history that is discussed in the video "Our Patchwork Past: A Story of Quilts in Kansas History." Have the students research their topics and present their findings in the form of a speech, written paper, exhibit, or drama.