

# A Patchwork History

---

## GRADES:

K through 8<sup>th</sup> (refer to suggested modifications in the outline)

## DURATION:

It will vary depending on the age group and the number of activities you decide to do.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Children grades K-3

- They will practice fine motor skills;
- They will be encouraged to be curious and creative;
- They will be introduced to the notion that objects can tell a lot about the people who created them.
- They will be introduced to the concept of time and history.

Children grades 4-8

- They will be encouraged to be curious and creative;
- They will develop their research, writing and presentation skills;
- They will understand how objects can be used by historians to understand the past.

## MATERIALS:

- Copies of pages 5, 7, 9 and 11 (for coloring activity)
- Several pre-cut pieces of paper in a variety of colors, glue and poster board or large paper for younger kids; or fabric scraps and sewing tools for older kids (for design activity)
- Access to device with internet connection (for research activity)
- Sharpies, colored pencils, markers etc. (for coloring activity)

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Quilts are made of two layers of cloth filled with padding (such as down or batting) held in place by ties or stitched designs. In many cases the top is pieced from a patchwork of smaller fabric pieces, and the pattern and color of these pieces are important to the design.

Quilts have been made for centuries by people around the world from different cultures, but they are particularly prominent in the United States. The making of quilts (or quilting) was often a communal activity, involving many people in a family or larger community. Part of why quilts are so interesting is because they tell a lot about the people who made them.



## Learn at Home – A Patchwork History

---

Check out [this digital collection of quilts on Ohio Memory](#) or the [National Museum of American History's online quilt collection](#) for beautiful examples of this type of art. Both collections have received the majority of their quilts as contributions from the makers' families. The collections show a variety of materials, sewing techniques, and styles. What do they say about the people who made them? What would be your choices if you were making one? Why?

Watch [this video](#) about some of the quilts in our collection to learn more about the history of quilts and what historians can learn from quilts.

### ACTIVITY OUTLINE:

1. Provide your children with the background information (adapting the explanation according to their age) or let them research online. If you have quilts at home, let them see it, touch it and connect with the object.
2. Once they are familiarized with quilts you can use any of the following activities with suggested adaptations for various ability levels.

#### Design Activity

This activity focus of the creation of the top layer of the quilt using patchwork. For younger children, use precut pieces of paper in different shapes and colors, glue and a poster to let them create their own "fabric". Older children should be encouraged to cut their own materials. The size of the project can be decided by you. Larger projects need more materials. Alternatively, children can use fabric scraps and sewing tools. For a guide on getting your young one started with sewing, watch [this video](#)! Also, check out [this video](#) for a tutorial on simple stitches you can sew by hand.



## Learn at Home – A Patchwork History

---

### Research Activity

#### **For older children (3-6):**

Let the children explore collections and online sources like those on [Ohio Memory](#) or the [National Museum of American History](#).

Let them choose a few quilts and explore the stories behind it. Who created them? When? Where? What material did they use? Was it made to celebrate a special date? Once they compile the basic information, let them research about the history of that specific time and place. What was happening in that community at the time?

To finalize and assess the project, let them write an essay (with images if they want to add them) or prepare an oral presentation. These projects can be shared with family members digitally!

#### **For younger children (K-2):**

View the collections with your child. Children should pick a few quilts to learn more about. Read the descriptions together and ask questions about why the child likes it and what colors they would use if they were to make that quilt. Encourage students to share their favorites with family members.

### Coloring Activity

On pages 4-11 you will find images of quilts from Ohio History Connection's collection followed by a graphic of the quilt that can be colored. The examples go from simplest to most complex pattern so you can choose the one that work better for your child.

## ONE MORE THING:

Let us know how it went! Tag us on social media or email us at [education@ohiohistory.org](mailto:education@ohiohistory.org).

### COLORING ACTIVITY

Take a look at these beautiful quilts from our collection! Each one has a story behind it and a person or group of people who created it. Read about the quilt, then design and color one using the graphic recreation.

#### Crazy Quilt

Dated October 20, 1887, this quilt was produced by Georgiana Bonsal of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The quilt shows four rows of four blocks set on point. The seams and blocks are embellished with embroidery and ribbons. The quilt features a wide, red velvet border, and the back of the quilt is red. Find more information [here](#).

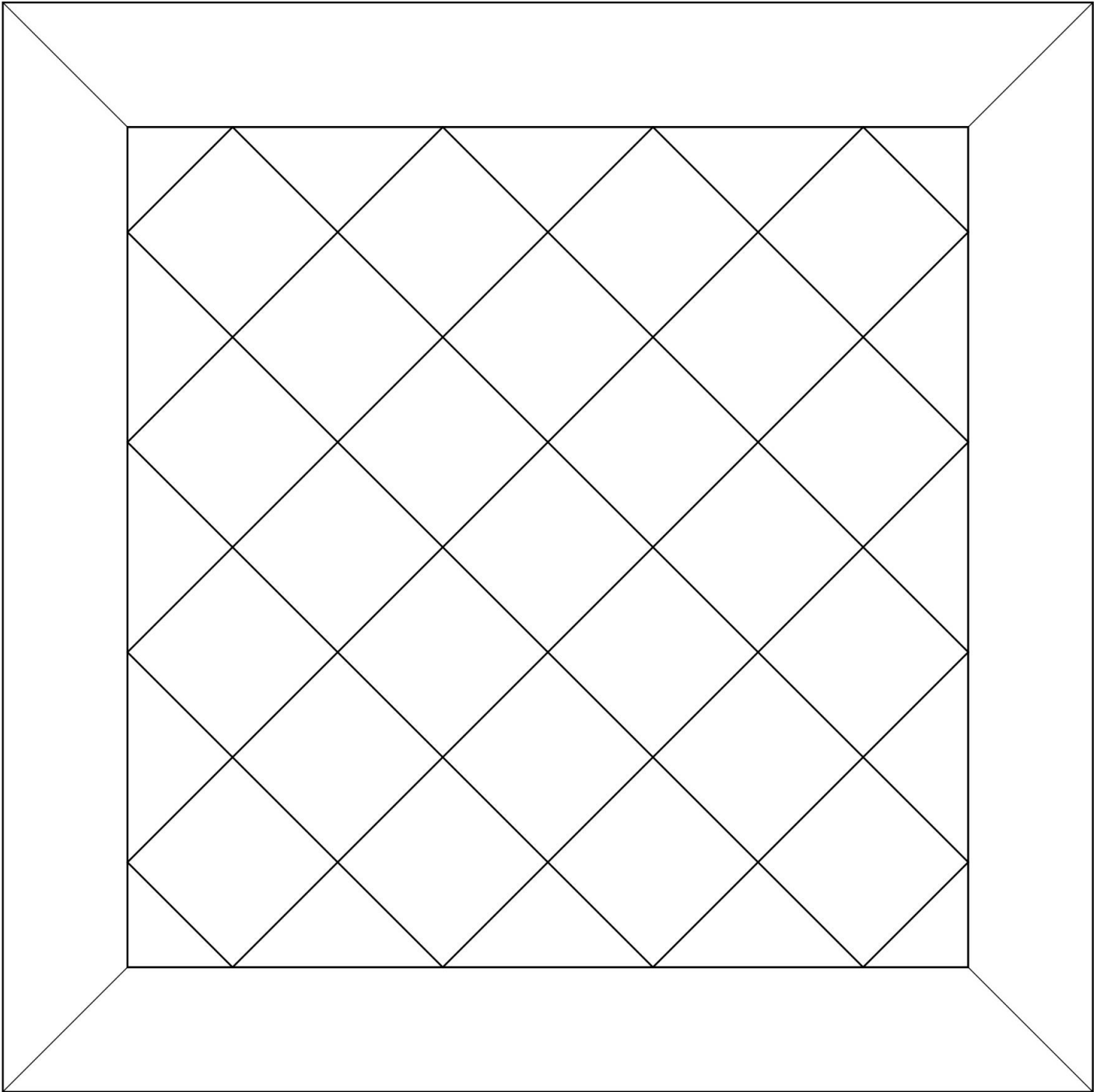


## Learn at Home – A Patchwork History

---

Now it's time for you to decorate yours! Choose your colors and what you'll use (crayon, pencil, sharpie) and go at it!

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Learn at Home – A Patchwork History

---

### Cotton Quilt 1

Dated 1875-1900, this is a quilt in the diamond in square pattern with fourteen rows of fifteen blocks, separated by green sashing with lighter-colored corner blocks. Green silk binds the quilt with glazed brown cotton. Find more information [here](#).

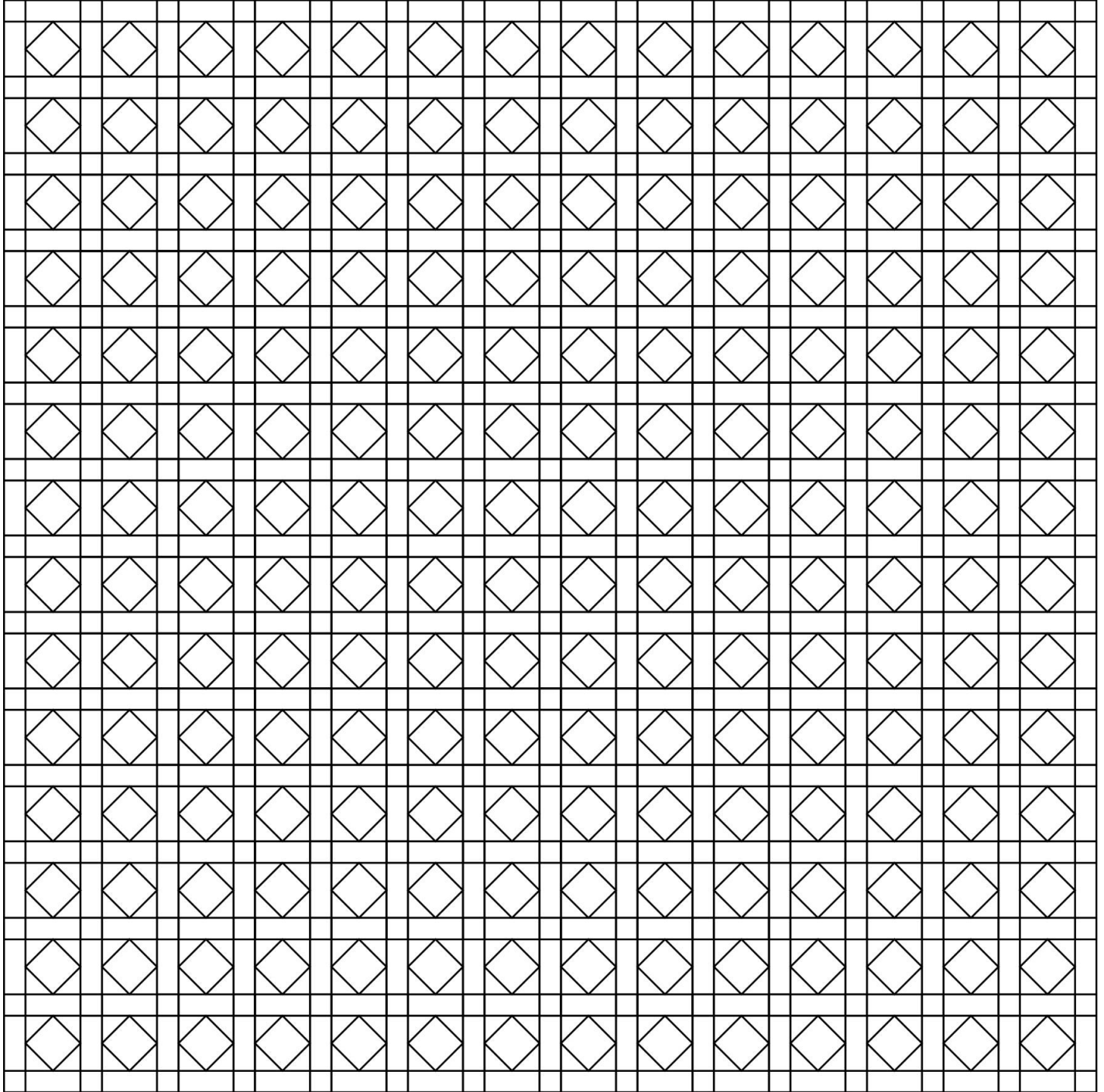


## Learn at Home – A Patchwork History

---

Now it's time for you to decorate yours! Choose your colors and what you'll use (crayon, pencil, sharpie) and go at it!

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

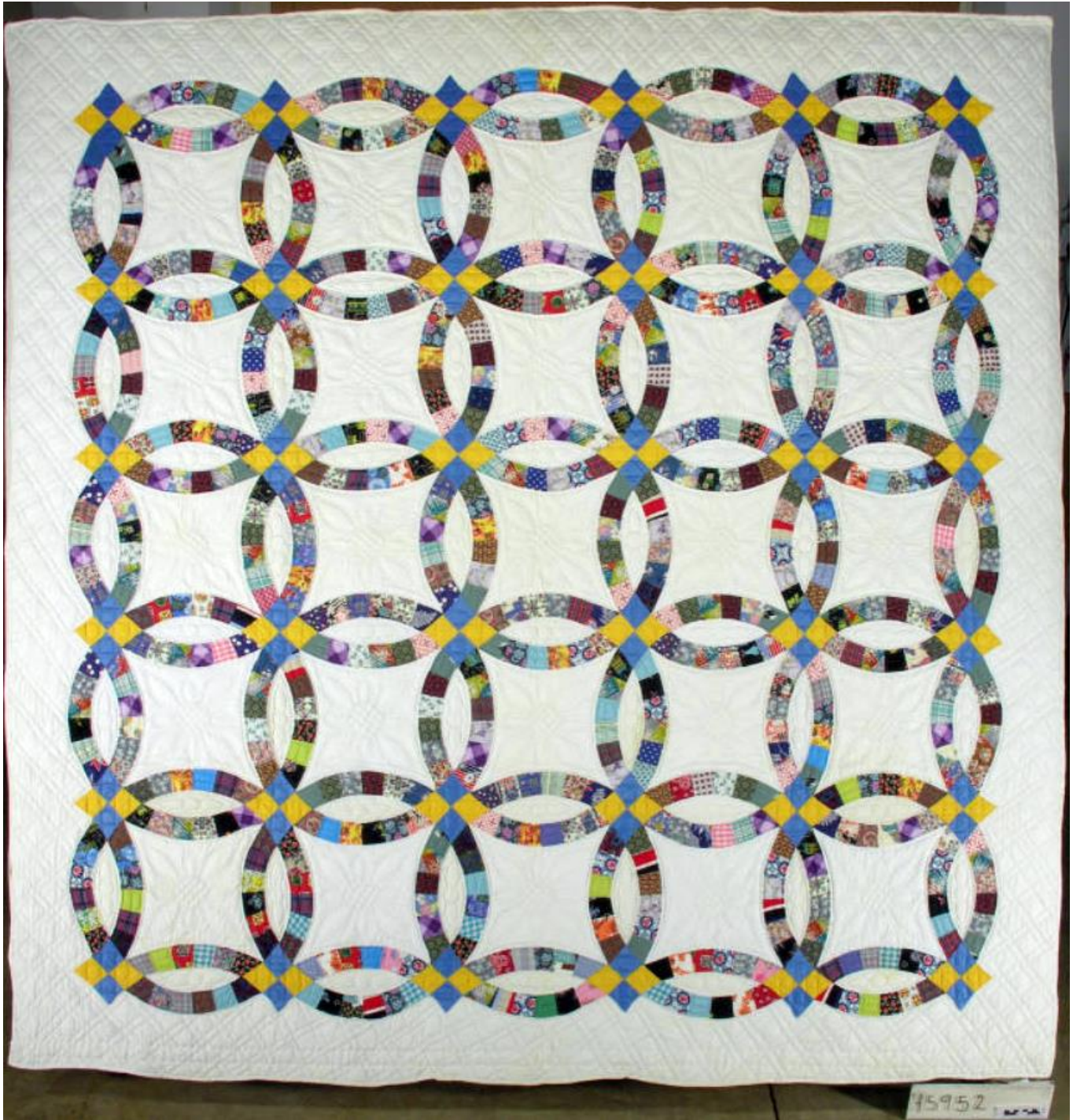


## Learn at Home – A Patchwork History

---

### Cotton Quilt 2

Dated ca. 1920-1940, this is a cotton, piecework quilt featuring a double wedding pattern, and was produced by the donor's great aunts. Find more information [here](#).



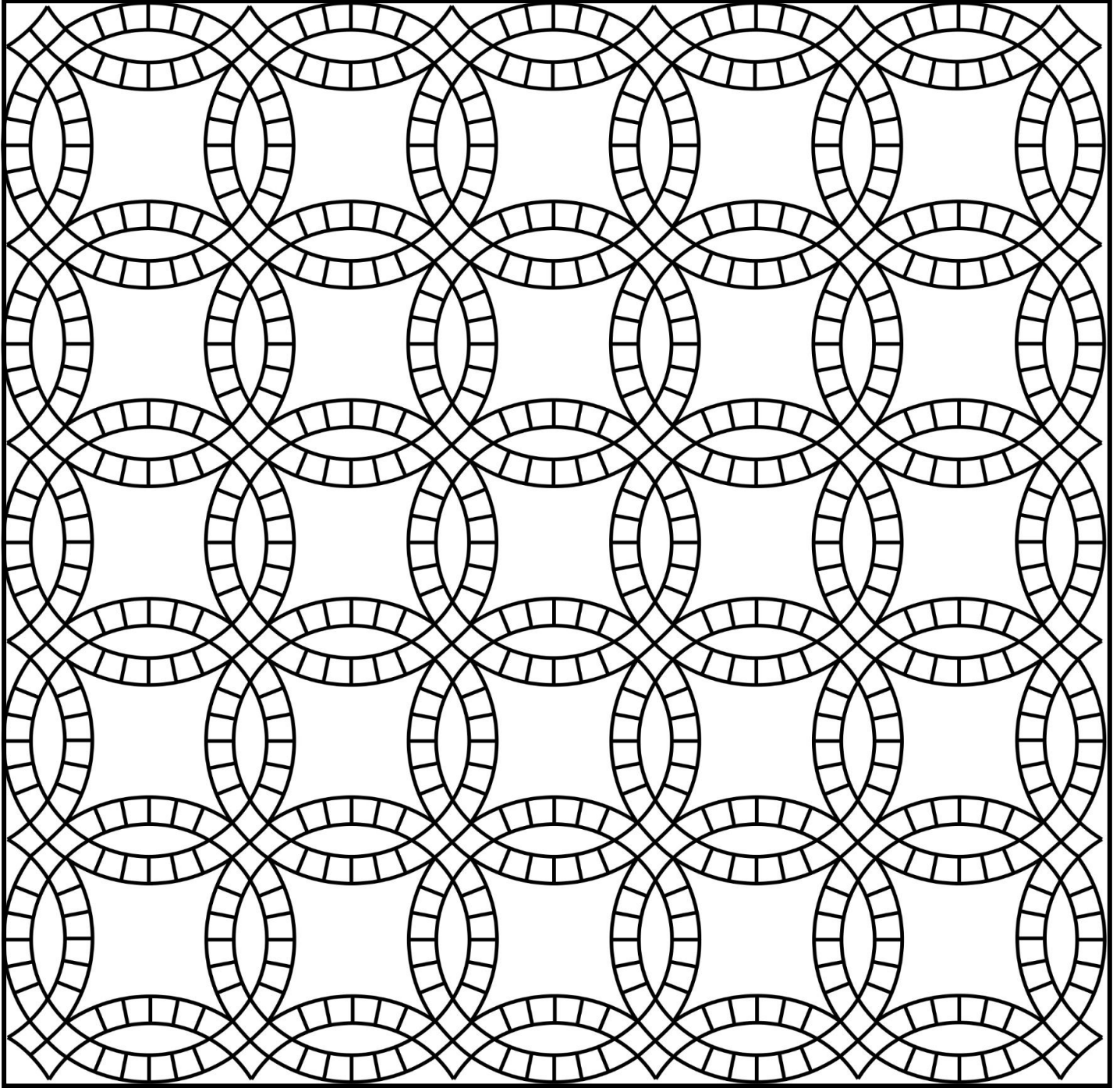


## Learn at Home – A Patchwork History

---

Now it's time for you to decorate yours! Choose your colors and what you'll use (crayon, pencil, sharpie) and go at it!

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Learn at Home – A Patchwork History

---

### Cotton Quilt 3

Dated 1850-1870, this cotton quilt was produced by Mary Jane Agnew Davidson of Boardman, Ohio, in Mahoning County. The quilt is pieced with rows of diamonds that radiate out from a central eight-pointed star to form a large octagonal center block, including colors white, blue, red, yellow, green, pink, and beige. There are four colored borders alternating with solid white that are mitered to fill out the top to make a square. The quilt has an applied yellow binding with a white cotton backing. The sunburst is quilted with an outline stitch that is carried out to the edges of the quilt, creating a diamond grid across the mitered corner borders. Find more information [here](#).



## Learn at Home – A Patchwork History

---

Now it's time for you to decorate yours! Choose your colors and what you'll use (crayon, pencil, sharpie) and go at it!

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

