This cheerful bedcover is a "friendship quilt" made for a woman named Ella Maria Deacon in 1842 in the area of Mount Holly, New Jersey. The superb condition of this quilt preserves the ingenious and skilled workmanship that went into it.

**Quilt, 1842.**
Made for Ella Maria Deacon (1811–1894).
United States, New Jersey, Mount Holly.
Cotton, plain weaves; pieced; appliquéd with cotton, plain weaves, some printed in a variety of techniques, some glazed; quilted; inscriptions in ink; edged with woven tape; backed with cotton, plain weave; printed.
Gift of Betsey Leeds Tait Puth.
A Quilting Bee

- What is this? What would you do with this? Where would you find it?
- Explain to students that this is a bedcover. Bring in a quilt to help students understand what it is and how it feels.
- How is this made?
- If custom were followed, the 85 individual sections were completed at the various homes of those involved, and then joined together with needle and thread at a final gathering called a quilting bee. The quilting bee was often a lively time of eating, drinking, dancing, and conversation.
- Using a few small pieces of cloth, show students how to sew them together to make a larger piece of cloth.
- Have students make a drawing of the design or image that appears on their bedcover. Have students share it with their classmates.

Illinois State Goals: 4, 16, 25, 26, 27

Community Quilt

- Using color necklaces, discuss the variety of colors in the quilt. Ask students to identify the shapes and patterns.
- Have students collaboratively make a quilt made out of paper or fabric. Give each student a square piece of paper/fabric and several pieces of colored paper/fabric in various shapes. At home, with a family member, have each student design his or her own square.
- When all students are done, glue all of the pieces on a large piece of paper/fabric. Invite family members to see the community quilt.
- In the museum, students can design their sections using felt pieces. Students can arrange their sections together to get an idea on how a quilt is made.

Illinois State Goals: 4, 9, 25, 26
Design a quilt.