**C:\Users\blewis\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\WER309EX\MC900356483[1].wmfName \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Underground Railroad quilts**

Secret messages in the form of quilt patterns helped slaves who were trying to escape from slavery in the Southern states before and during the American Civil War.

The quilt patterns, used in a certain order, relayed messages to slaves preparing to escape. Each pattern represented a different meaning. Some of the most common were “Monkey Wrench”, “Star”, “Crossroads”, and “Wagon Wheel”. Quilts slung over a fence or windowsill, seemingly to air, passed on the necessary information to knowing slaves. As quilts hung out to air was a common sight on a plantation, neither the plantation owner nor the overseer would notice anything suspicious.

Look up more information on Underground Railroad quilts using your tablet. You will be able to see some common patterns. You must write down (on your note card) at least two sites that you used to see these quilt designs. We also have many books in the classroom you can use.

**Quilt Project**

You are to design a quilt square with the burlap piece you receive. We will start these in class but you will need to finish them on your own. Please make a practice quilt square on a piece of paper before you do it on the burlap. We will use colored sharpies to make the designs on the burlap. Be sure to put paper down under your burlap so the marker does not go through. This design can be a design that was used during this time period or you are free to make up a pattern of your own. Remember it should symbolize something that can relay a message to an escaping slave. Make sure that you give your square pattern a title or a name. We will present our quilt squares in class and then connect them into one large quilt. The quilt will be a huge mix of messages. ☺

**Along with bringing in your finished burlap square, you must fill out an index card with the following information on each line: You will be given the index card in class. Fill out the index card in sharpie so we can read it.**

1. **Your name and period**
2. **Title of your Pattern**
3. **Explanation of your pattern Must be several sentences**
4. **Two sources that you looked at to see quilt patterns ( either online or from the books in our classroom)**