

Mini Art Lesson:
Bars Quilt

This Mini Art Lesson explores the patterns and shapes that make Amish quilts works of art. Kids ages 2–6 will use tape and coloring supplies to recreate this Amish bar quilt in our collection, while kids ages 7 and up will learn about designing quilts, making their own grid pattern, and mimicking the stitched patterns that make these quilts so unique.

●FOR TEACHERS, CAREGIVERS, AND PARENTS
Access [a free teaching guide](#), featuring questions for viewing and other great activities and resources.

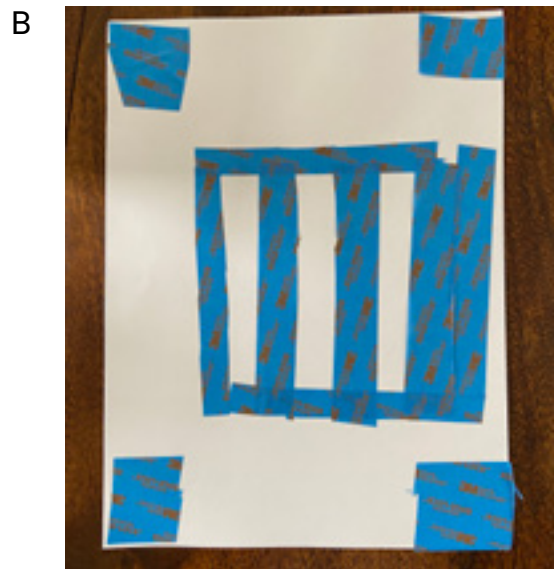
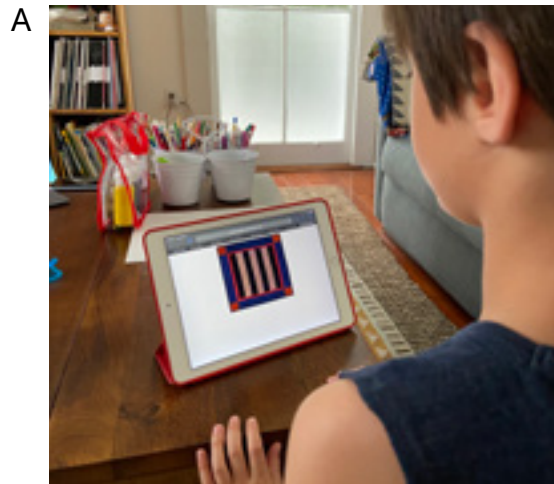


FOR AGES 2–6:
LET'S PLAY

Fun fact: Amish quilt makers, discouraged from using patterned fabrics, create their own patterns through color blocking and stitching. In that tradition, let's create our own patterns!

Step 1: Take a look at the shapes and colors used in the quilt. Then, discuss what a pattern is and identify the patterns depicted in the quilt. (A)

Step 2: Using tape, gently recreate the outline of the quilt's pattern on a piece of paper. (B)



FOR AGES 2-6:
LET'S PLAY (cont.)

Step 3: With the tape still on the paper, color in or paint the sections of paper that aren't covered. It's okay if some color gets on the tape! (C)

Step 4: Carefully remove the tape from your paper to reveal your pattern. (D)

Step 5: Color in the blank spots using another color to finish your quilt. Review the pattern, colors, and shapes with your little one! (E)

Thank you to Anjali and Elliott for their help on this project!

C



D



E



FOR AGES 7+:
LET'S CREATE

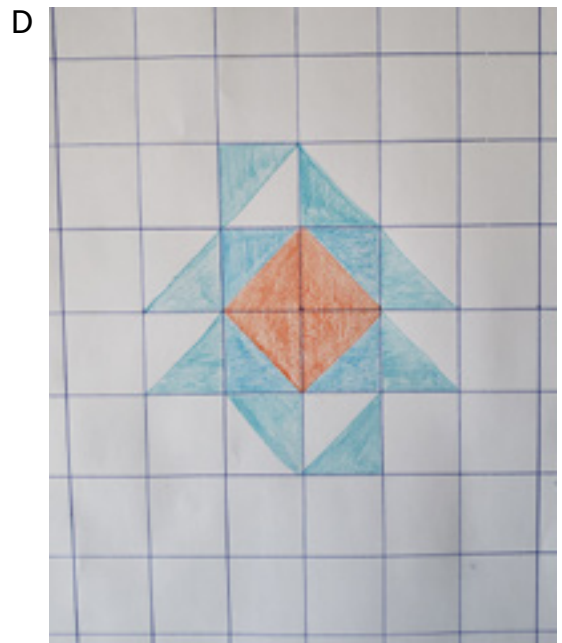
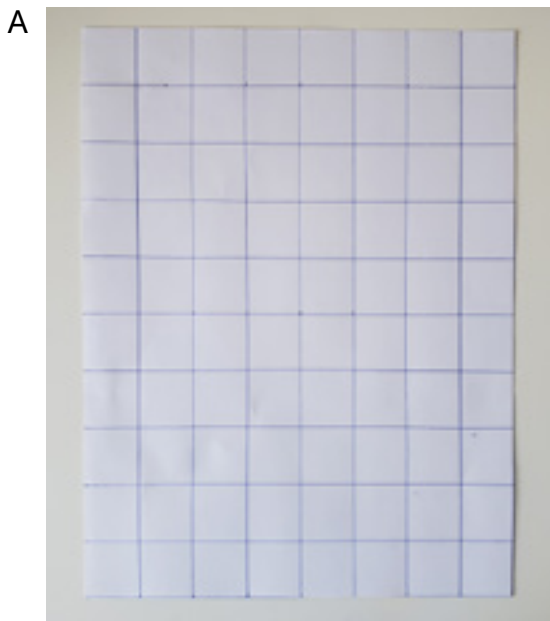
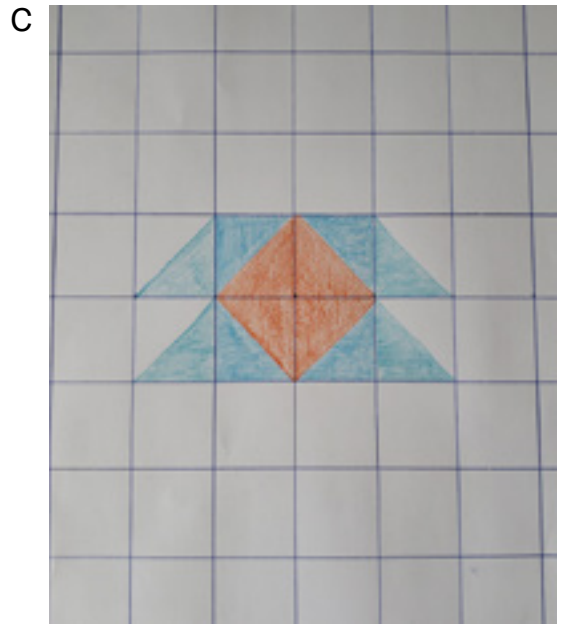
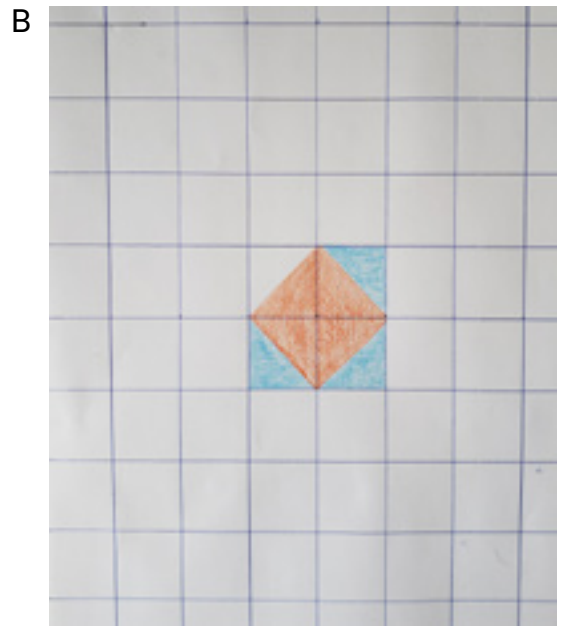
Taking inspiration from the bold colors and geometry of the bar quilt, let's create our own quilt designs.

Step 1: Draw a grid on a sheet of paper with one-inch squares. Tip: you can make the squares bigger for an easier project, or smaller for more of a challenge. (A)

Step 2: Starting in the center, fill in each square with different color shapes. Try triangles, squares, rectangles, or stars. (B)

You can make your pattern symmetrical... (C)

...or asymmetrical. (D)



FOR AGES 7+:
LET'S CREATE (cont.)

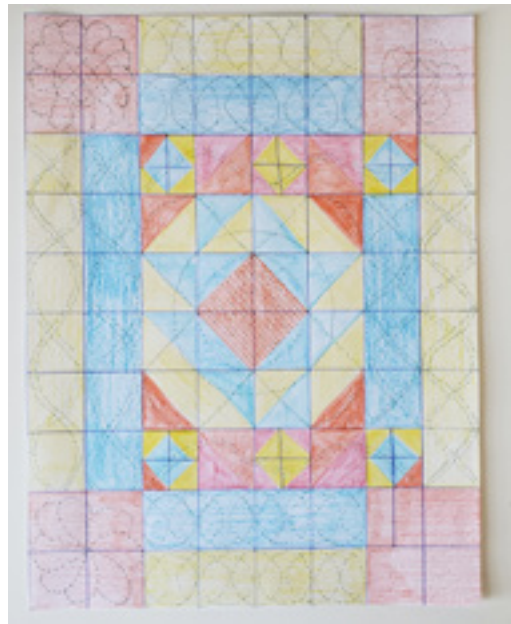
You can fill in large sections with a single color, or break down each square into subsections. (E)

Step 3: Keep going until you've filled in the whole page! (F)

At first glance, the bar quilt may seem like it's simply solid blocks of color. But a closer look reveals the eloquent stitching. (G)

Step 4: Using a pen or marker, create dotted lines on your drawing. These lines will mimic stitching, creating your own pattern. (H)

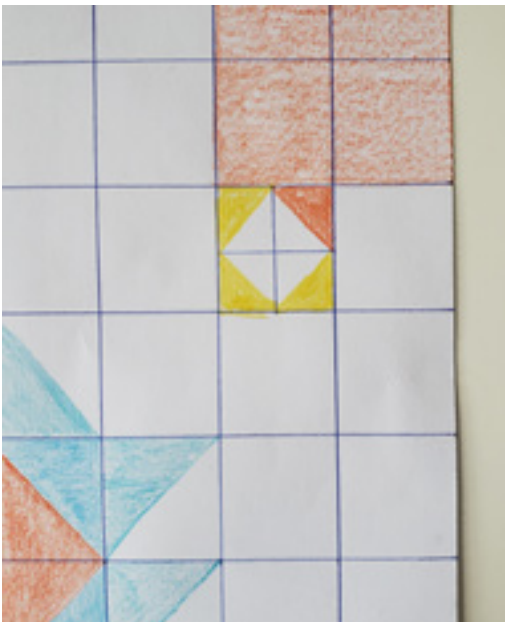
F



G



E



H



FOR AGES 7+:
LET'S CREATE (cont.)

Step 5: Dot the page until your entire quilt design looks stitched. (I)

Ask yourself: Does your artwork look different up close than it does far away? How does adding different colors change the overall composition?

Although quilts were originally created to keep us warm, their beautiful designs have earned them a place on museum walls. Where will you hang your design?

I

