DESIGNA QUILT PATTERN

Master Artist Sharon Tindall specializes in early African American quilt patterns. In her research as a quilt historian, Tindall suggests that these quilts contained coded messages to help guide enslaved people to safety. For example, a bear paw design meant to follow the animal trail or the log cabin design indicated a safe home.

Use the space below to design your own quilt block. It can be a beautiful pattern or a symbol with a secret coded message. Bonus: Ask a parent or guardian for fabric to turn your block into a small decorative pillow or frame your block to hang in your room.

