

FOX FIRE

Hike through History



Museum Activity Book

Welcome to Foxfire!

Foxfire was started by students just like you! They talked to their grandparents, aunts, uncles, and neighbors to gather the stories, buildings, and objects that you encountered today. The activities in this book are related to your tour of the museum.

Here are some words and their definitions to get you started on this activity book!

Appalachia: region of the eastern United States surrounding the Appalachian Mountain range, from southern New York to central Alabama.

Archive: a place where historical materials or records (like documents) are stored

Artifact: a human-made object from a particular time period or event

Cabin: a small home of simple construction

Chinking: clay used to fill chinks or spaces between logs of a cabin

Culture: the beliefs, customs, practices, and behaviors of a certain group of people or geographical region

Curator: individual in charge of the care, exhibition, and interpretation of museums and their collections

Exhibit: a public showing of objects

Heritage: history, ideas, and beliefs that define a culture and are shared between generations

Material Culture: the material remains of a society, such as buildings and other artifacts

Museum: an institution dedicated to the acquisition, care, study, and display of historical or culturally valuable objects

Oral History: the personal stories or memories of individuals, recorded through oral interviews

Explore Your Heritage

Many of the stories in Foxfire came from students just talking with family members! Your parents and grandparents might not have grown up in a log cabin, but they still have stories to share. Ask a relative the questions listed below and record their answers. Was there anything that surprised you? Draw a picture depicting a scene from one of their stories and share it with them!

- Where did you grow up?
- How big was your family?
- What was your favorite food as a kid? Did you make or grow any of your food?
- What was the earliest toy you remember playing with?
- Did you have a favorite story or book as a kid?
- What was your least favorite chore?
- What was school like?
- Did you have any special holiday traditions or a favorite celebration?
- Do you own something that belonged to your grandparents or parents?

Before Backpacks...Baskets!

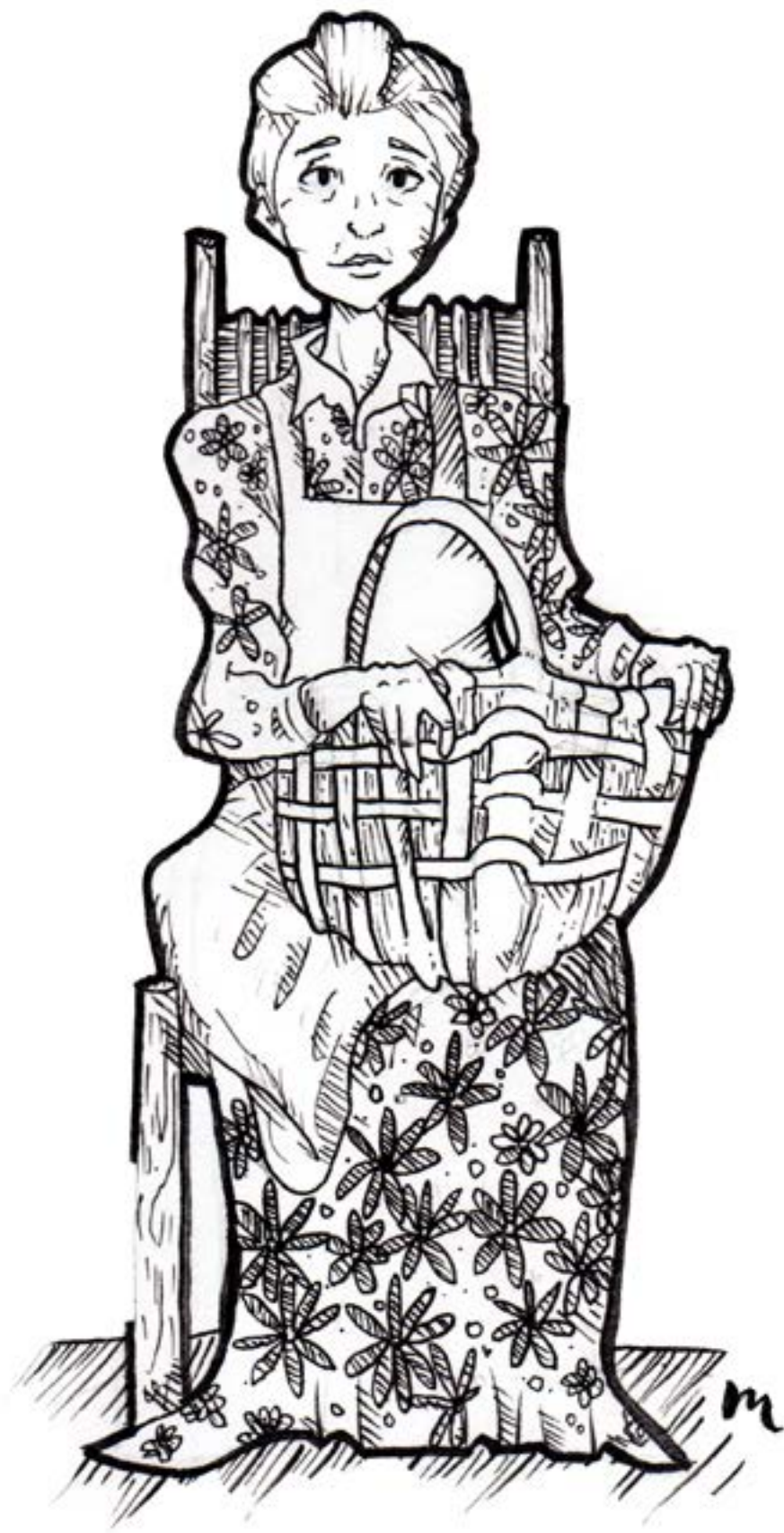
In the 1800s and 1900s, mountain people didn't have metal buckets or canvas bags, like your backpack today, but instead had to carry things around in wooden buckets or baskets! Aunt Arie, one of Foxfire's favorite contacts, was an expert basket maker. She used shavings of white oak to weave her basket, but try your own using paper!

Supplies:

- 3 sheets of construction paper
- ruler
- scissors
- tape

Directions:

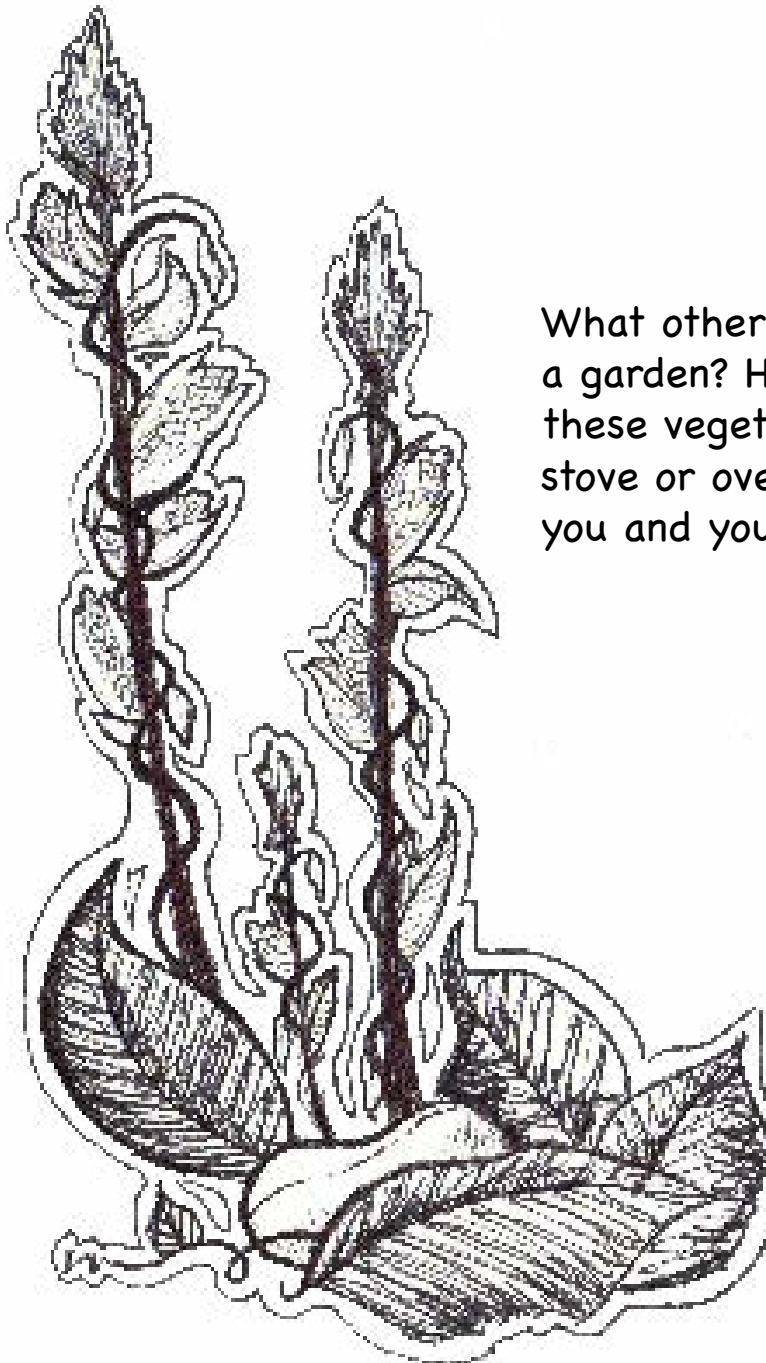
- Using your ruler and scissors (ask an adult for help!), cut the construction paper lengthwise into 1/2 inch-wide strips.
- Lay four strips on the table. Tape down the tops if you want, to help keep them in place. Take a separate strip and weave it over and under the four strips. Repeat this with three other pieces.
- Center the woven block so that you have about 3 1/2 inches sticking out on all sides. Bend these edges toward the center.
- Weave your remaining pieces around the now-vertical strips to create the sides of your basket. It will take about 1 1/2 strips to make it all the way around, so it may help to tape these together before you weave.
- Secure any loose ends with tape. Your basket is now ready to carry things!



Aunt Arie Carpenter

Home Grown

Families in the mountains couldn't go to the grocery store for food; they had to grow it! Every family had a garden and some livestock. Most followed a practice started by the Cherokee and many other Native American tribes known as a "three sisters garden." The three sisters were corn, beans, and squash, which were all planted together. Each plant helped the other two out, much like you might support your own siblings or friends.

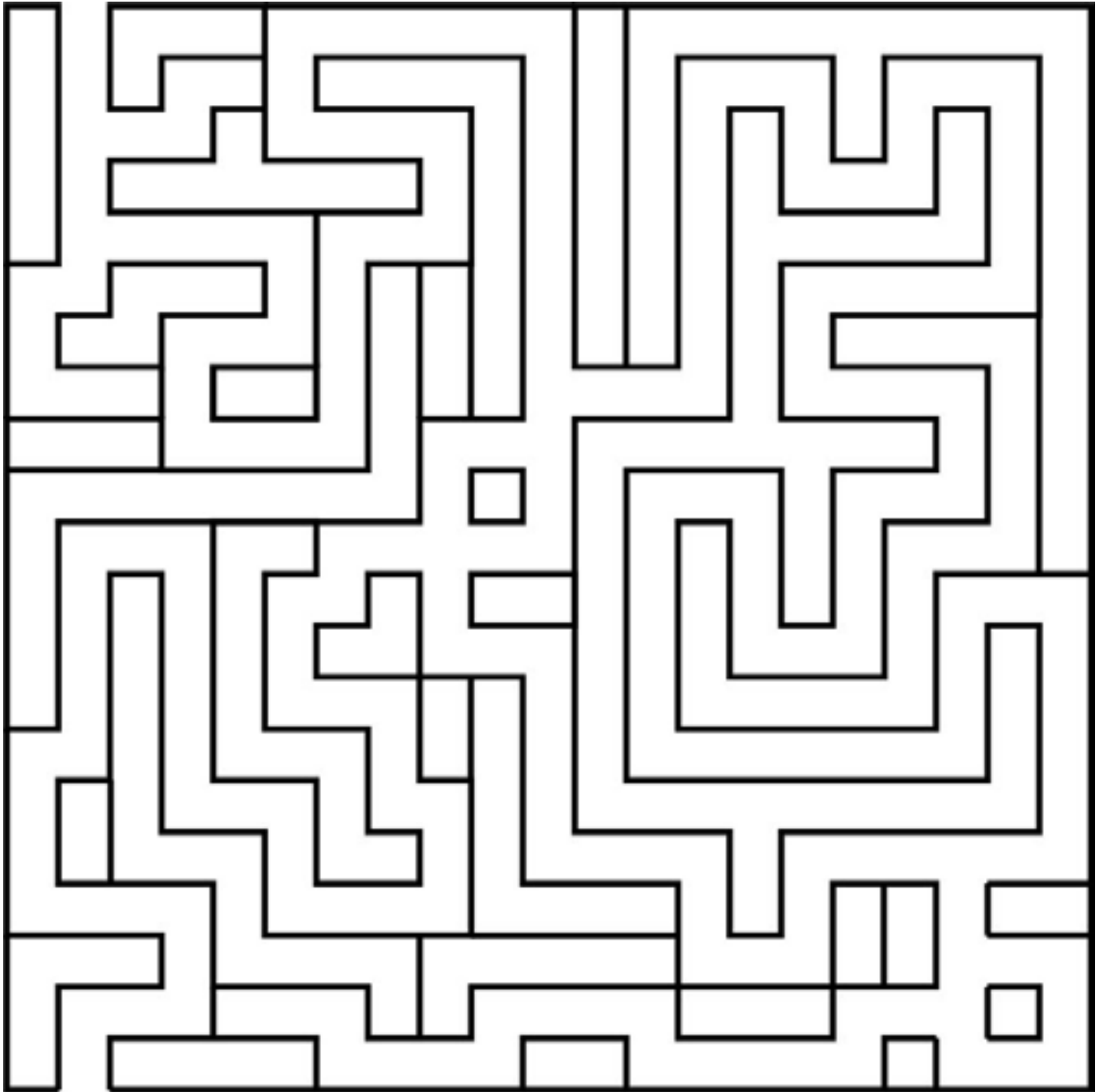


What other vegetables might be grown in a garden? How might people eat or cook these vegetables without an electric or gas stove or oven? Are there any vegetables you and your family eat?

Stuck in the "Maize"

You need to make it through the corn maze to harvest vegetables and get them home in time for supper! Can you find your way out?

Start!



Keep Your Nose to the Grind Stone

You've learned a lot about daily life in historic Appalachia. Complete the following word search and see how many you can remember learning about!

O M Y J N I B M S A M L N H G Y C E B I
O V E N R B O R P E A Y E R E H A G Y Q
A P S O W O M P O I H L K A O J B R N S
J X N D L I A G G O H C C E T C I O R U
Y O E B K L C R E Z M W T R E H N F V M
E Z F Z A H O V U Q L N X I F K E E R V
R V K C U E P O T T E R Y F R E O R F V
N L H R G L C R G Q I B Z X V B V N U X
A I N U D Z U R X O Q Z I O L C X C A E
A T U N D L H Y L N F I O F S E U H I K
M H B B F C J N X Z I Y Y C N C M B K O
D D E J T N Y D Q T J S Q O P I D J Q A
S U Y U P T K E T L I U Q A I O N W L R
Z E D Q T Z S S X K Y U N N A L G P H J
P K N B Q D E X W N B H C M H D J V T L
L P C S R E M I C L U D A R U E P O M C
X I U M F T D J B T P V S I G F S L Z U
Q Q V R L N S Q B M Q L T D B W I L I G
C N E N R F C T A D W C K D O H K I K F
L B R A A F C L G B A N J O I S A M I Q

Foxfire

Cabin

Cast Iron

Froe

Churn

Quilt

Axe

Anvil

Forge

Corn

Mill

Loom

Dutch Oven

Georgia

Appalachia

Banjo

Dulcimer

Leather Britches

Broom

Pottery

History Detective: Analyzing Artifacts

Curators are responsible for creating **exhibits**. To do this, they have to interpret, or analyze, the **artifact** to learn about how it used, who used it, and why—just like a detective! Select an artifact that you saw today.

Answer the following questions to try to learn more about it.

- Pick 5 adjectives to describe the object
- How do you think the artifact was used?
- What is it made of?
- Who might have used the artifact?
- What color is it?
- Do we still use this artifact today? Is there something that might have replaced this artifact?
- What shape is the artifact?
- Does the artifact tell you anything about the people who used it?
- Was it made or used recently, or a long time ago? Why do you think so?

Cooking for a Crowd

Many parents in Appalachia had lots of kids—usually between 8 and 10! That's a lot of brothers and sisters. To feed everybody, the mother would bake up large batches of cornbread almost everyday. Using the following recipe, figure out how many cups of cornmeal mom would need to feed a family of 12.

Easy Cornbread (Makes 6 servings)

Ingredients:

3 cups freshly ground cornmeal
1/2 to 1 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 cup milk

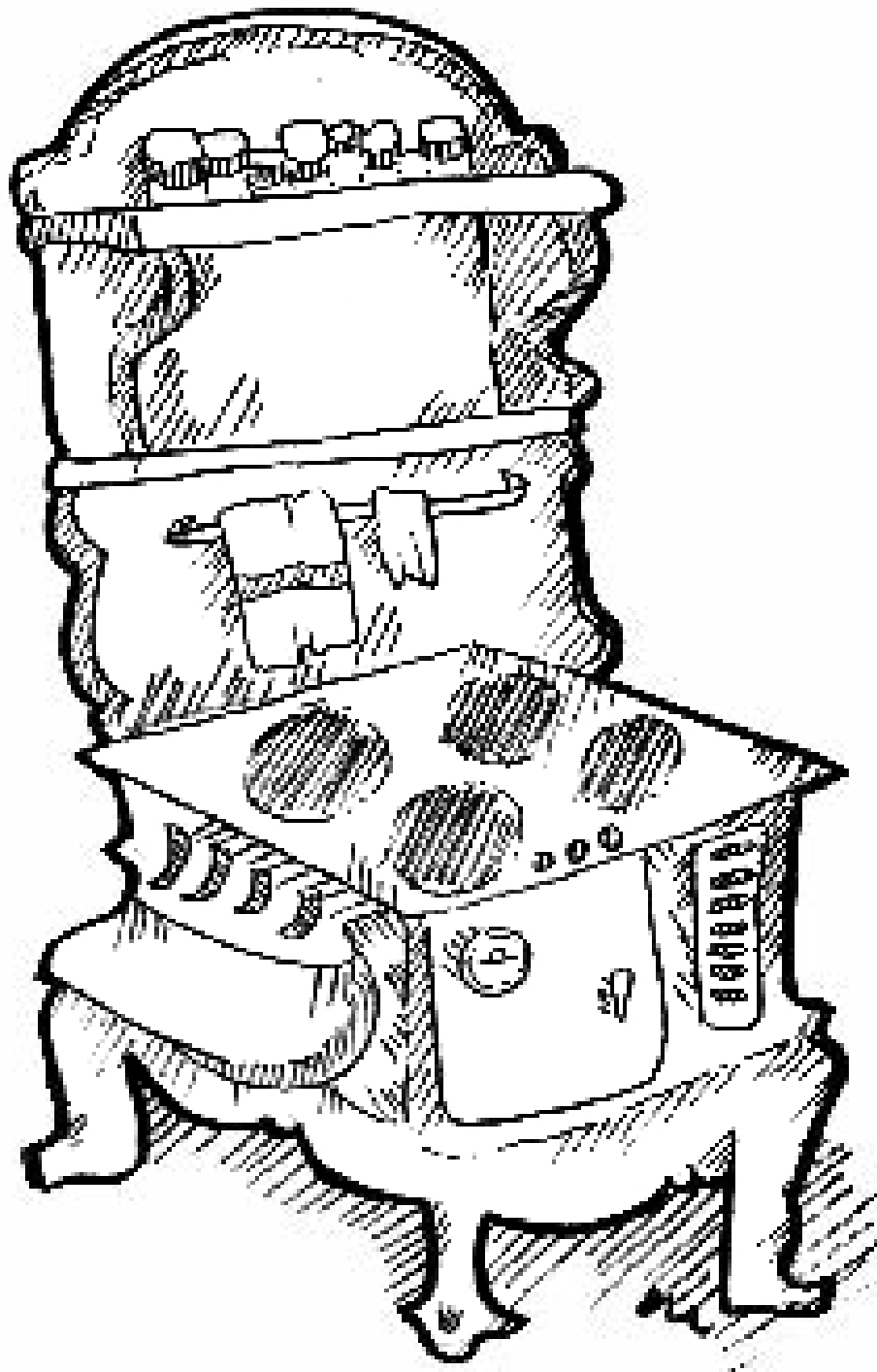
Sift freshly ground (not self-rising) cornmeal into a large bowl. Add salt (to taste) and baking soda, mixing well and then add the milk. Mix thoroughly and pour into a greased pan. Bake in a 450 degree (Fahrenheit) wood stove oven until golden brown (approximately 20–30 minutes). When browned, take out of oven, let cool for a few minutes and turn out the bread by inverting the pan.

From The Foxfire Book of Appalachian Cookery, pages 179–180

Before electricity or gas power was available in the mountains, families used cast iron wood stoves to cook their meals. Some might look like your oven and stove today, but instead were heated by wood fires!

- How do you think people cooked before wood stoves? What types of pots and pans might they have used?

- How do you or your parents prepare food now? What are the benefits of different appliances, like microwaves or toaster ovens?



Cast Iron Woodstove

Singing Through Life

Music played an important role in Appalachian culture. Folk songs were passed between generations, not through written notes, but through oral traditions. Many songs are in the form of ballads (songs that tell stories) and were brought over by European settlers. Read this song, "Kidder Cole," then try telling your own story through song and share it with a friend!

"Kidder Cole"

My name is Eugene Felix Alley.
I got a girl in Cashiers Valley.
She's the joy of my soul.
How I love that Kidder Cole.

I don't know, but it was all by chance,
Way last fall I went to a dance.
Boys and girls all fell in line,
But Charley Wright had beat my time.

I may never have a fight,
But I can't stand that Charley Wright,
Just because, confound his soul,
He danced that night with Kidder Cole...

I caught Kidder and I let right in,
But Kidder said now don't begin.
I'm going back to the valley
And I'll dance with Kidder every set.

Kidder Cole is the prettiest girl I know
There is in this wide world.
She's the joy of my soul.
How I love that Kidder Cole...



Leonard Webb, Musician

Stitched Together

Quilts were important in the mountains because they provided warmth during the cold winter months. Quilts are made by sewing scraps of fabric into patterns, or blocks. These blocks are repeated to make a large blanket that is layered with other fabric and stitched through to make it stronger and warmer. Look at the quilt block on the facing page and answer the following questions.

- What does the quilt block, as a whole, look like to you?
- How many shapes do you see? Can you name them?
- What types of angles do you see? Measure them and record your findings here.
- Measure the quilt square. If you needed to make a quilt 75 inches wide by 90 inches long, how many squares would you need?

Quilts patterns often represented an event, object, or something in the environment, like churn dasher or bear claw. On a separate piece of paper, draw your own quilt square. What design did you create? What does it represent? What colors would you use?

