

## Quilts Around the World



### Native American Quilts

Native American tribes created intricate quillwork and beadwork designs that adapted the quilting and sewing techniques of European missionaries to suit their own needs. The most famous motif is the “star-quilt” pattern, which represents the Morning Star. Great Plains tribes would wrap these quilts around the shoulders of victorious returning warriors or hunters.



### Japanese Quilts

A popular Japanese quilt is the *Sashiko* quilt, which translates to ‘little stabs.’ This style uses decorative embroidery that also reinforces the strength of the quilt. Quilts were used as bed covers, kimonos, and warrior armor, and often included designs of family crests, ocean waves, and floral motifs. Indigo blue is a common color used in Japanese quilting.



### Mexican Quilts

In the 17th century, Mexican shepherds in modern day New Mexico would use sheep’s wool to survive the cold night climates. Using any scraps of wool cloth, they would weave together thick blankets and bed-coverings. The Otomi of Tenango is best known for their embroidery on textiles, using bright colors, floral, and animal designs that may have been inspired by cave drawings.



### Russian Quilts

Russia has a long history of using quilts and patchwork to create folk-art. Many of its quilts are acclaimed and world-wide to this day. This technique is known as “patchwork collage,” and became most popular in the 20th century. Using multi-colored and geometric fabrics, Russian quilts often celebrate everyday scenes of animals and the countryside.



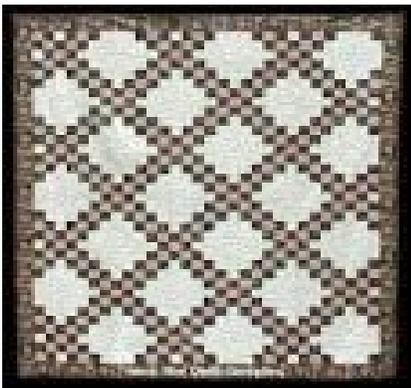
### **African-American Quilts**

Beginning in the 17th century, enslaved African-American women learned to make quilts for their own everyday use, often using the “string-quilt” technique. Scraps of various fabrics would be sewn together, cut into blocks, and then incorporated into a quilt. The most famous pattern is the ‘Pine Cone,’ a 3-D circular design made of overlapping triangles.



### **Ukrainian Quilts**

Embroidery on quilts have had a long history in the Ukraine, mostly used in both wedding attire and the national costumes. The most prominent patterns are floral and leaf designs, as well as some geometric elements. The designs are often stitched by the Ukrainian people using threads made out of cotton, silk, and even gold.



### **Irish Quilts**

Traditionally, Irish quilts consisted of two layers, weaved together using a wave or chevron pattern. The patchworks were usually made by combining hand weaving and sewing machines, using various scraps of cloth around the house to create a single blanket. Irish quilts are especially famous for introducing the chain pattern, which is still popular today.

#### **Image Sources:**

Native American: <http://aktalakota.stjo.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=8594>

Japanese: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:MET\\_RT792C.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:MET_RT792C.jpg)

Mexican: <https://blog.teacollection.com/otomi-embroidery>

Russian: <https://allrus.me/russian-patchwork/>

African-American: [http://www.womenfolk.com/quilting\\_history/afam.htm](http://www.womenfolk.com/quilting_history/afam.htm)

Ukrainian: <https://thequiltshow.com/daily-blog/142-newsletter/18047-ukrainian-folk-arts-come-alive-again>

Irish: <http://www.quilt-lovers-guide.com/double-irish-chain-quilt.html#axzz6L8uCOhzX>

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## More on These Quilting Traditions

Native American: <https://www.history.nd.gov/publications/starquilt.pdf>

Japanese: <http://www.designbyaika.com/what-is-sashiko/>

Mexican: [http://www.womenfolk.com/quilting\\_history/hispanic.htm](http://www.womenfolk.com/quilting_history/hispanic.htm)

Russian: <https://www.internationalquiltmuseum.org/exhibition/glasnost-and-folk-culture>

African-American: <https://www.soulsgrowndeep.org/gees-bend-quiltmakers>

Ukrainian:

<https://theculturetrip.com/europe/ukraine/articles/the-meaning-behind-traditional-patterns-in-ukrainian-embroidery/>

Irish: [http://www.womenfolk.com/quilt\\_pattern\\_history/irishchain.htm](http://www.womenfolk.com/quilt_pattern_history/irishchain.htm)