



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

## **BILL OF RIGHTS QUILT ACTIVITY**

By Daphne Greene

### **Activity Description**

The craft of quilt making has been passed down from mothers to daughters for generations dating back to the time of the Founders. To tie together literacy, culture, and the study of our individual rights as presented in the Constitution, students will examine the Bill of Rights amendments and create a quilt piece to form a pictorial representation to show their understanding of what these amendments really mean.

### **Suggested Grade Level**

Upper elementary, middle school, high school

### **Estimated Time to Complete**

Two 45-minute class periods or one 90-minute block

### **Objectives**

- Students will read, discuss in small groups, and create a visual representation of the Bill of Rights Amendments through the creation of a Bill of Rights Quilt.

### **Materials Needed**

- Copy of the Constitution (Bill of Rights)
- Coloring pencils/crayons
- Glue sticks
- Large sheet of bulletin board paper for quilt background
- The book *When I Was Young in the Mountains* by Cynthia Rylant
- The book *The Patchwork Quilt* by Valarie Floumy

### **Activity Procedures**

1. Read *When I Was Young in the Mountains* by Cynthia Rylant or *The Patchwork Quilt* by Valarie Floumy.
2. Discuss cultural aspect of quilt making as it relates to American history. Present an overview of the Bill of Rights (history, importance, etc.).
3. Divide class into ten small groups or partner groups.
4. Give each group a copy of one of the Bill of Rights amendments.

5. Groups will read their amendment, discuss its meaning, and create a 16-by-16 inch paper quilt square piece with drawings and words to explain its meaning. They will color the square and get it ready to add to the classroom's Bill of Rights Quilt.
6. Regroup the students as a whole class and allow small groups or partners to share their ideas and quilt squares.
7. Arrange each quilt square on the Bill of Rights Background sheet and post in the classroom or hall for others to see.