

Iditarod Traveling Quilt

A Project that 'Uncovers' Curriculum
while 'Covering Miles'
On a Journey from
Classroom to Classroom!



Quilt 1

2007 – 2008

Quilt 2

Issue 1 October 2007

A Journey to Un-Cover Curriculum!

Welcome to the 2007-2008 Iditarod Traveling Quilt project! This will be a year like none other, with 2 quilts, each on a journey from classroom to classroom around the world. You'll be able to follow the journey, learn about the locations the quilts travel, and discover ways to connect this project to your own classroom.

Why? Our goal is to help teachers uncover curriculum ties connecting the Iditarod to classroom education. We know students who follow this project become engaged in projects that helps them practice basic skills.

You will also be able to learn about an exciting quilt project facilitated by our 2008 Teacher on the Trail, Jane Blaile. Jane's quilt project is awesome! You can learn about this project by clicking on the Teacher on the Trail link found at the For Teachers section of www.iditarod.com. While there, you can discover other exciting projects and lesson ideas from Jane.

If you are interested in having Quilt 1 and Quilt 2 visit your school in the Future, please contact us for information. If you have designed your own quilt project with students, please let us know about your project. We'd love to share your ideas and lessons with our readers.

YOU ARE INVITED: We'd also like to invite your class to become a part of a virtual Traveling Quilt. To do so, simply design a square that would be a part of an Iditarod Traveling quilt. Follow the directions below and watch your square become a Virtual Iditarod Traveling Quilt.

Directions:

1. Look at the quilt pictures at the end of this newsletter or on past issues of the Traveling Quilt newsletter and discuss the kinds of messages found on the quilt squares.
2. Brainstorm with students a message that you'd like to share on your quilt square. Your message can be about a curriculum area or about skills needed to be successful at meeting goals.
Design your quilt square.
3. Transfer your class's project onto a piece of cloth. Using markers designed to be used on cloth or permanent markers, outline or color your quilt square.
4. Email a digital image of your quilt square to Iditarod at: djohnson@iditarod.com
5. If you'd like your quilt to become part of a 'real' quilt, mail it to: Diane Johnson, 1412 S. Melgaard Road, Aberdeen, SD 57401.

Quilt 1

Quilt 1 began the school year in Dickinson, North Dakota with Mrs. Haynes and Mrs. Steinbeck. Introducing the quilt to the students during the first month the school year was a great way to get the students to think about the upcoming projects for the school year. The teachers have planned projects connecting the race to the skills the students need to learn in their curriculum.

Later in the school year, the students will be involved in making a quilt of their own. Looking at the quilt's squares and thinking about the messages in each square is an excellent way to get students to start to think about the quilt project that they will be involved in and set their goals for the project.

What do they want their quilt to be like? What messages or information should be on the quilt? What will they do with the quilt when it is complete? As quilt hung on the walls around the school, students began to reflect on these questions and to get a vision of what their quilt would be like.

In February, the whole school will be involved in an Iditarod unit. Students will be having their own sled races outside. The teachers are planning to have an Iditarod musher visit their school, too. Iditarod may be months away, but the visit of this quilt has sparked student interest and learning basic skills has begun! This year will be a year filled with great projects! From North Dakota--- Quilt 1 was sent to Wisconsin.

Quilt 2

Quilt 2 began the school year with the 2007 Teacher on the Trail™, Kim Slade, in Vero Beach, Florida, where she used the quilt as a visual to review her experiences as 2007 Teacher on the Trail as she introduced her students to some of the projects that they'd be doing during the school year, including a project they'd be involved in later in the year, the creation of a 'geometry' quilt.

Next, Quilt went to another school in Florida, Tropical Elementary. Mrs. Edwards and her students are involved in many activities this year, including learning how to make dog booties. The students were excited to see the quilt and study the designs and messages on each square. It will be an exciting year in this classroom because Mrs. Edwards knows just how to teach the basic skills using Iditarod. The curriculum areas and meeting state standards are very important. The Iditarod lessons that Mrs. Edwards teaches are designed to help students with the skills that they need to know and understand.

Quilt then left for Indiana and the Mrs. Hoke's classroom. Check this newsletter next month to see what exciting things went on with Mrs. Hoke and her students.

Quilt Review:

Quilt 1: Started in North Dakota and went to Wisconsin.

Quilt 2: Started in Florida and went to Indiana.



One Small Square

A square on one of the quilts is entitled, “One Small Square” and celebrates the journey of 2007 Teacher on the Trail™, Kim Slade. [CLICK](#) to read the lesson plan that Kim created to encourage students around the world to take a look at their own ‘world’ and compare it to other places. Review the Iditarod Insider video clip: Behind the Race: Mar 08 Teacher on the Trail in Nikolai and see ‘one small square’ along the Iditarod Trail during last year’s race.

Create your own ‘one small square’ and show your world to us. Send us a digital image of your discovery and tell us about it. We’ll share images that are sent to us in a future newsletter. What is found in ‘one small square of your world?’ We look forward to hearing from you!

QUILT CONNECTIONS:

There are many great literature connections that you can use with students to help them learn more about quilts. We invite you to share with us your favorite book about quilts. Send us the title and author. Let’s make a list!

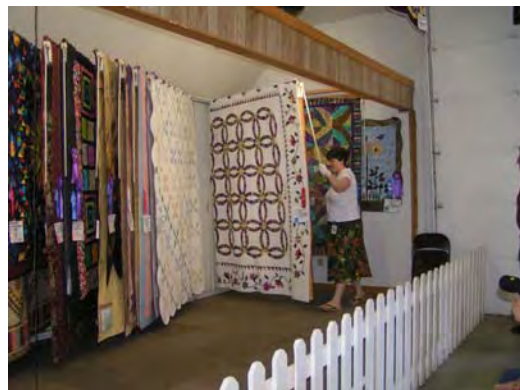
The Alaska State Fair: Quilt Display

Many visitors to the Alaska State Fair enjoyed seeing the display of homemade quilts. In celebration of the hard work and dedication that goes into making quilts, we’ve included a couple of pictures of those quilts. We’d like to encourage you to think about the quilts that are made in your own community.

Discussion questions:

Who are the quilt makers? Why do they make quilts? What kinds of patterns are found in the quilts? What size are most quilts? Who buys quilts and how are they used? How does quilt making compare today with how quilts were made long ago?

Do you know someone who makes quilts? Invite that person into your classroom and talk about the quilts.



Quilt's Journey in Review!



2002 Teacher on the Trail™ Kim Harrick shows the quilt and the scrapbook.



Students enjoy 'meeting' the quilt!



Mrs. Witte introduced the quilt to a famous Tiger!



The quilt went to Rome.



2001 Teacher on the Trail™, Diane Nye's grandchild cuddled in the quilt.

Where will each quilt go next?
Stay tuned!

Click to learn more:
[How did our project get started?](#)