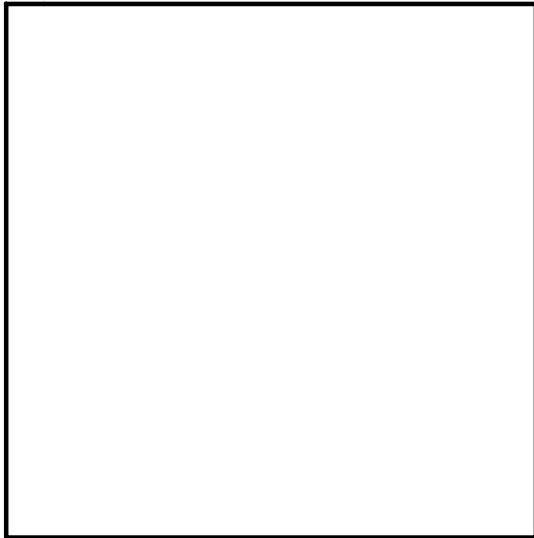
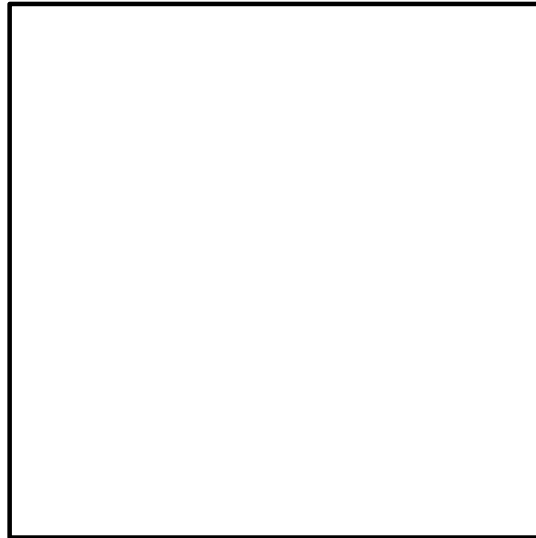


# **Ozella's Underground Railroad Quilt Code**



**Ozella McDaniel  
William was a quilter and  
a retired teacher. She  
had no children of her  
own.**



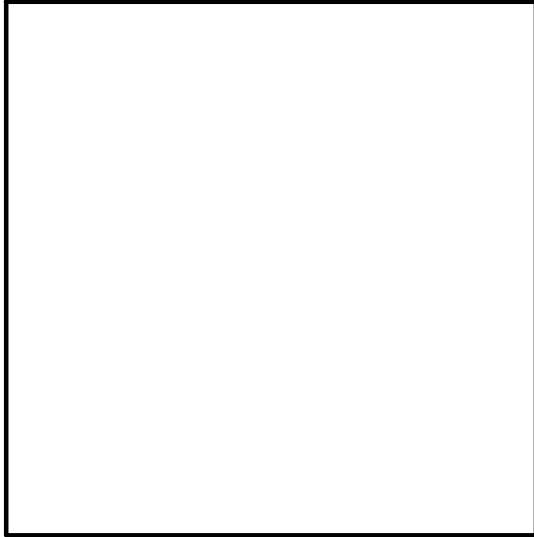
**Ozella's family has  
passed down a story.  
The story tells about a  
secret code.**



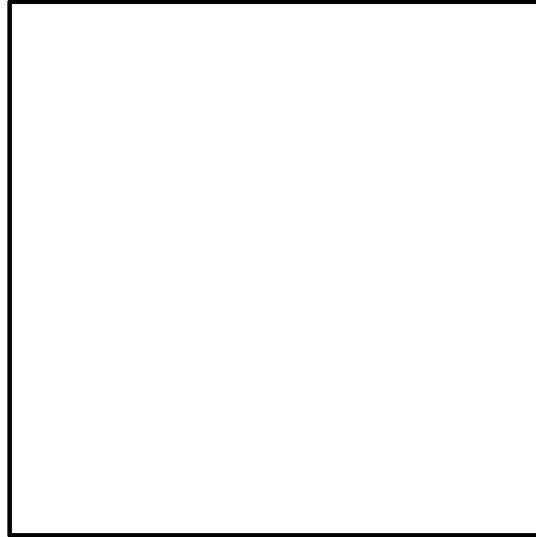
**The code helped slaves  
remember the ways to  
escape to freedom.**



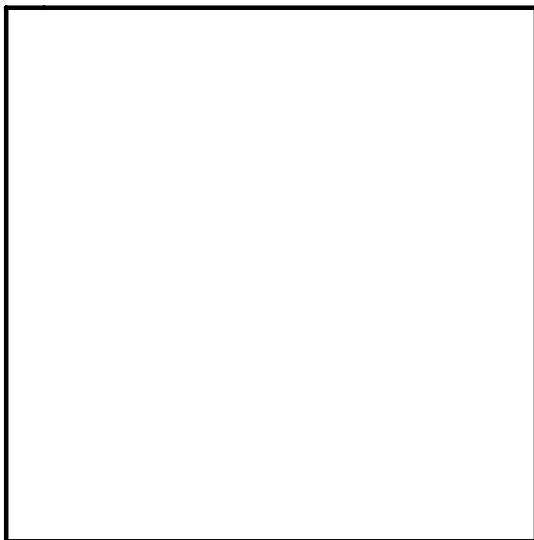
**Ozella's grandmother  
told the story to Ozella's  
mother. Ozella's mother  
told it to her.**



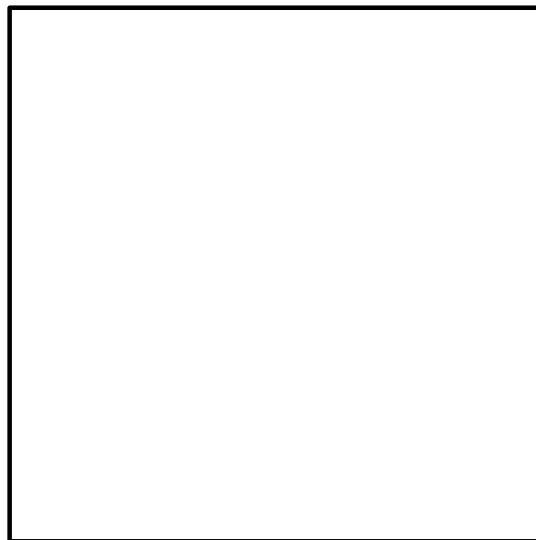
**The secret message is hidden in quilt patterns from the days of slavery.**



**The story was remembered by the women who were quilters.**

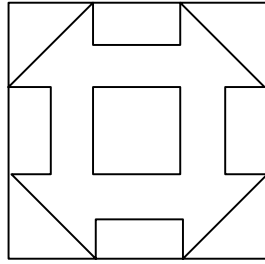


**One day Ozella shared the story with a writer named Jacqueline Tobin.**



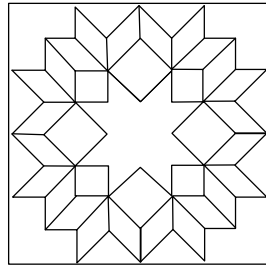
**Ozella began the story directing Jacqueline to “Write this down.” This is Ozella’s story.**

The Monkey wrench



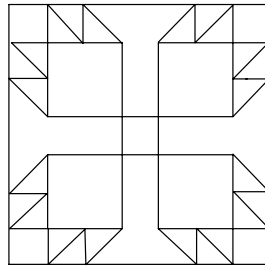
turns the

Wagon Wheel

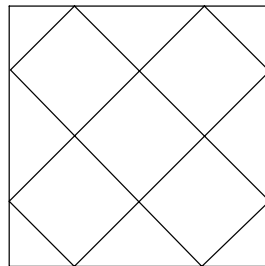


toward Canada

on a Bear's Paw trail

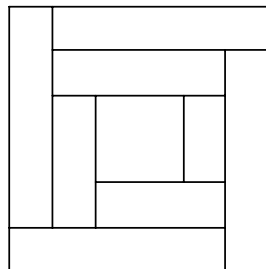


to the Crossroads.

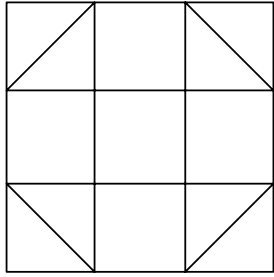


Once they got to the crossroads

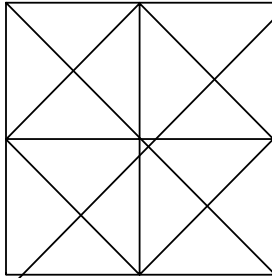
they dug a Log Cabin



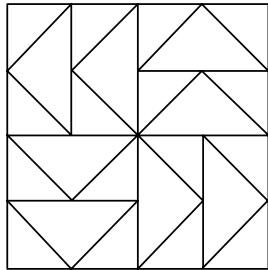
on the ground.



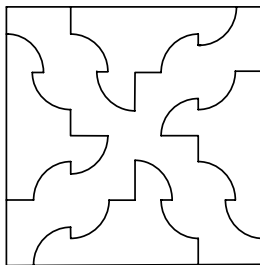
Shoofly told them to dress up in cotton and



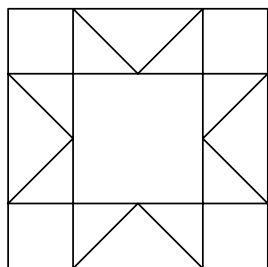
satin Bow Ties and go to the cathedral church,  
get married and exchange Double Wedding Rings.



Flying Geese stay on the



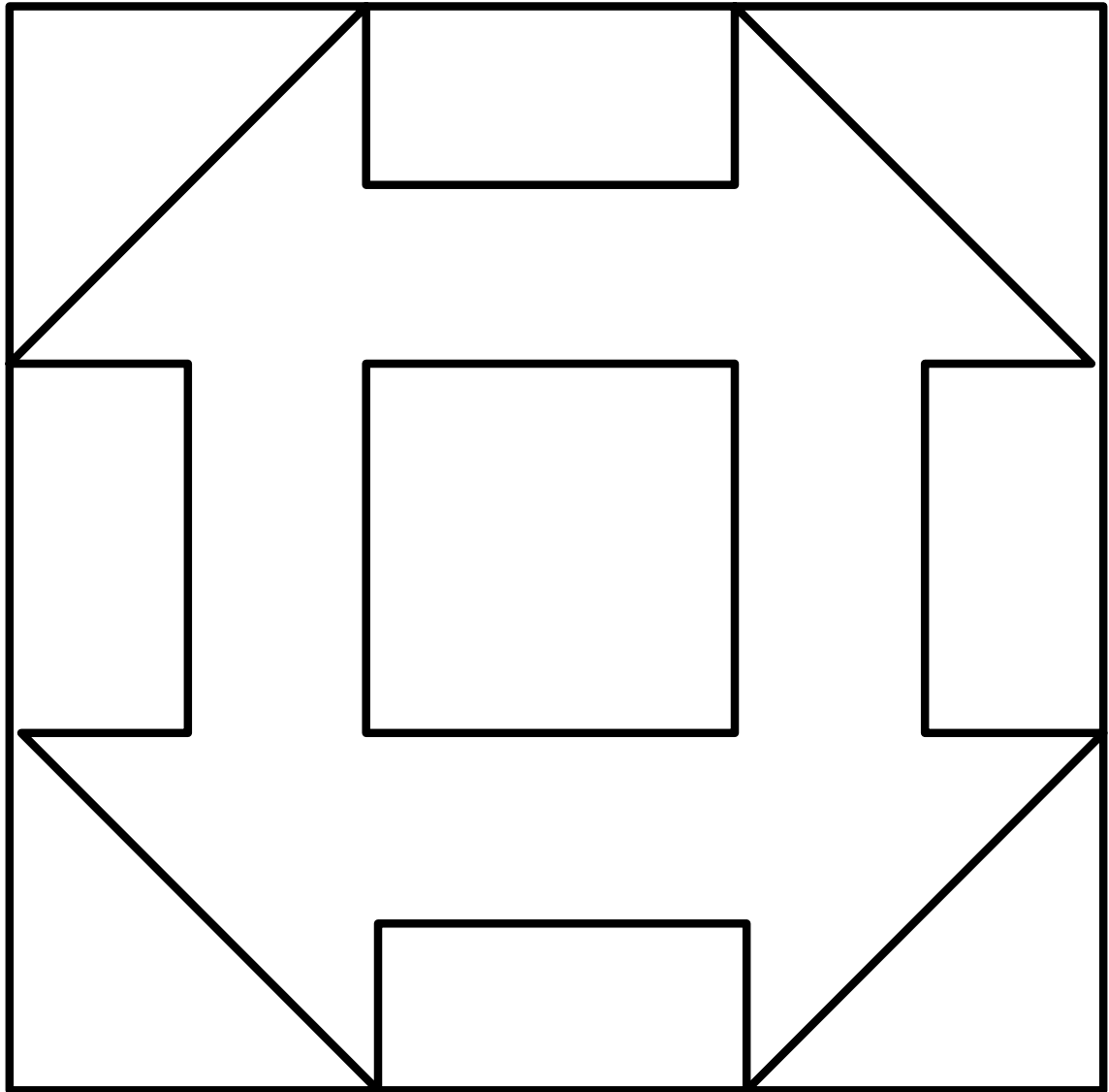
Drunkard's Path and follow



the Stars.

# The Monkey Wrench Turns...

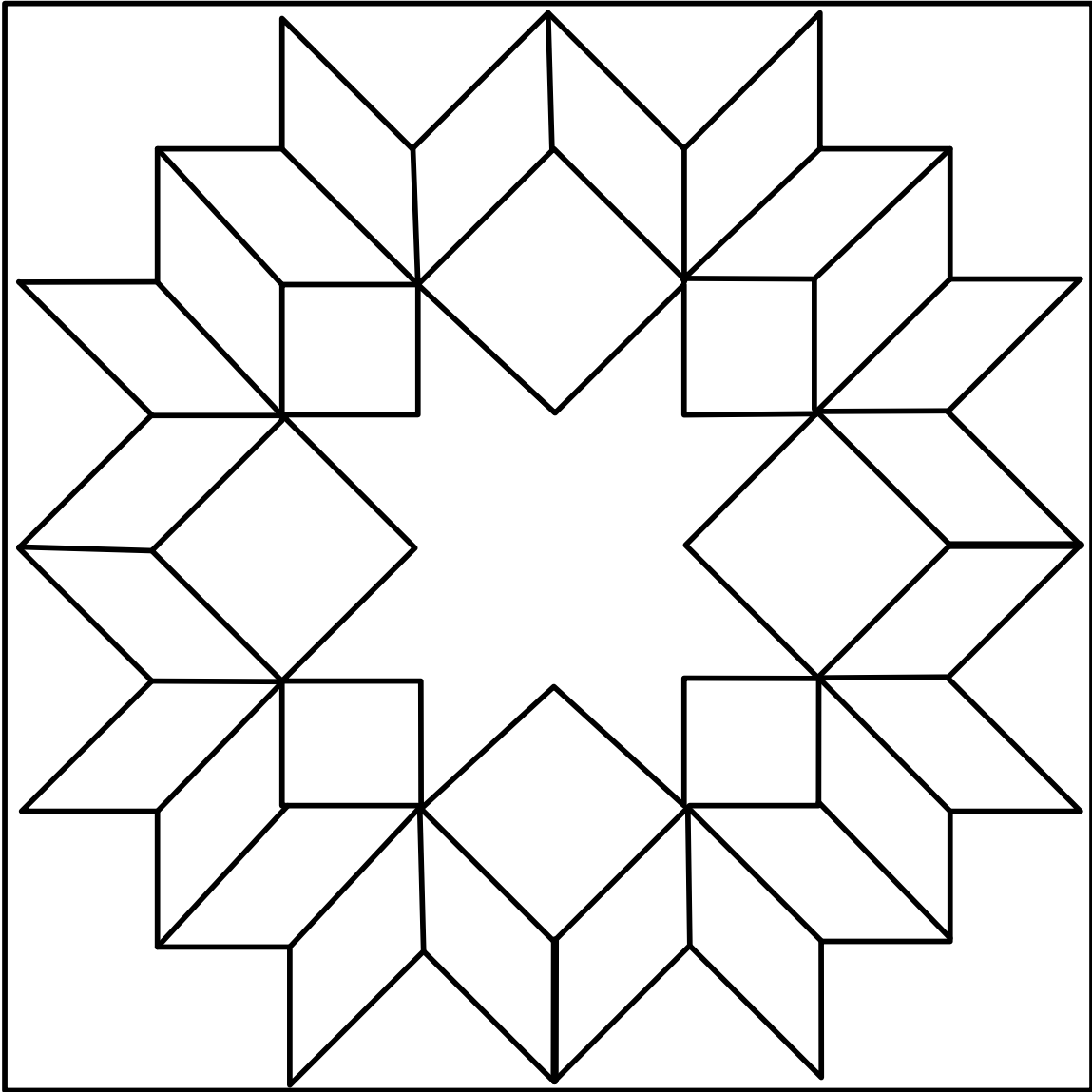
A Quilt made of Monkey Wrench block patterns was the first quilt to be displayed as a signal for slaves to get ready if they were planning to escape to the north. The Monkey Wrench told slaves to gather their 'tools'. What common tools would a slave need to prepare for their journey? Write your answer below.



<b>Name:</b>	

## ...the Wagon Wheel...

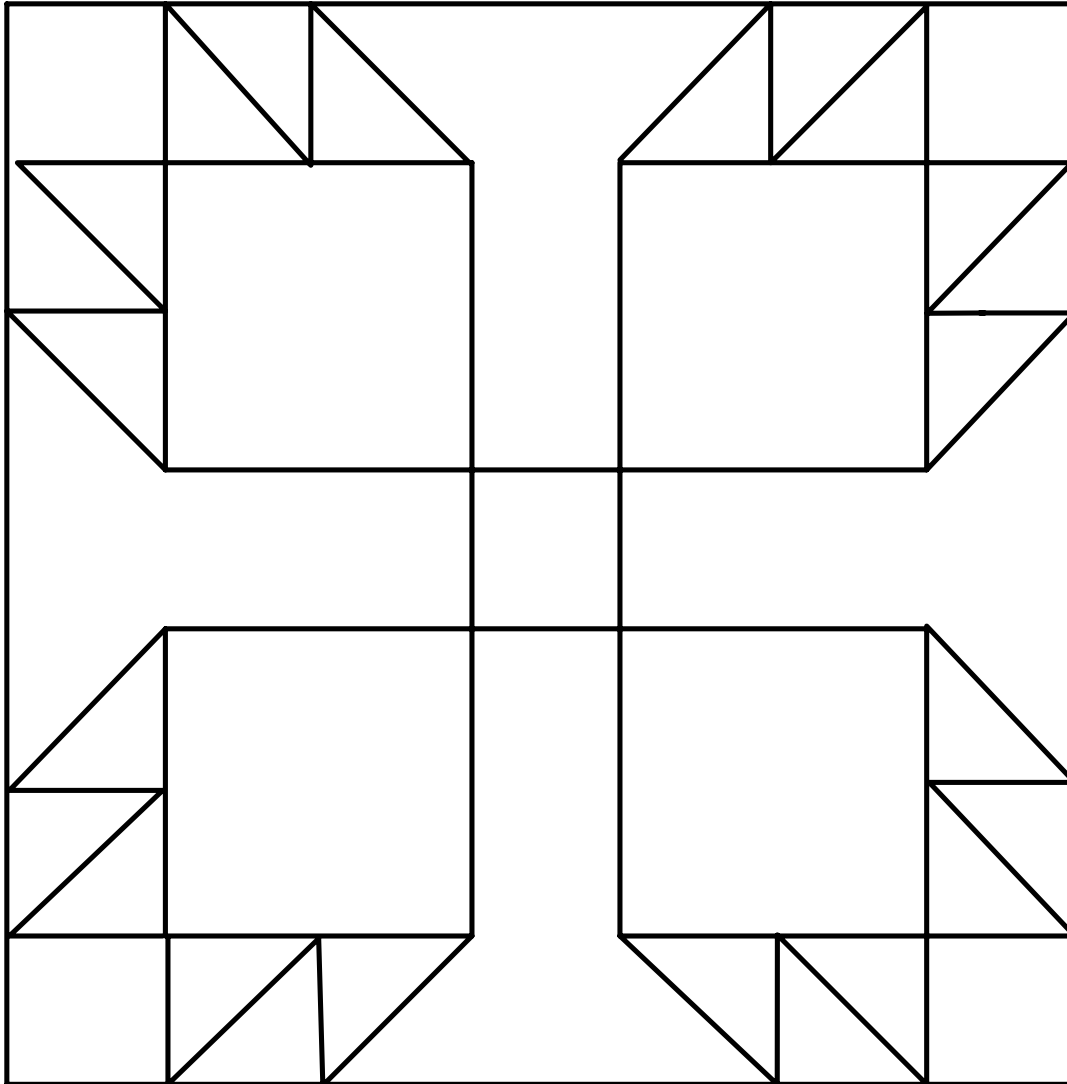
The wagon wheel pattern was the second quilt to be displayed on the fence as a signal which alerted slaves to pack up the supplies they would need on their journey to survive as if they were packing up a wagon. What supplies would you pack up? Remember you will have to carry everything on your back! Write what you would choose to take below.



<b>Name:</b>	

# ...toward Canada on a Bear's Paw Trail...

Slaves on their journey to freedom were told to follow the bear's trails over the Appalachian mountain range. Bears knew routes through the mountains and bears knew where to find water and fish for food. What are some other foods the runaway slaves could eat in the mountains? Write your ideas below.

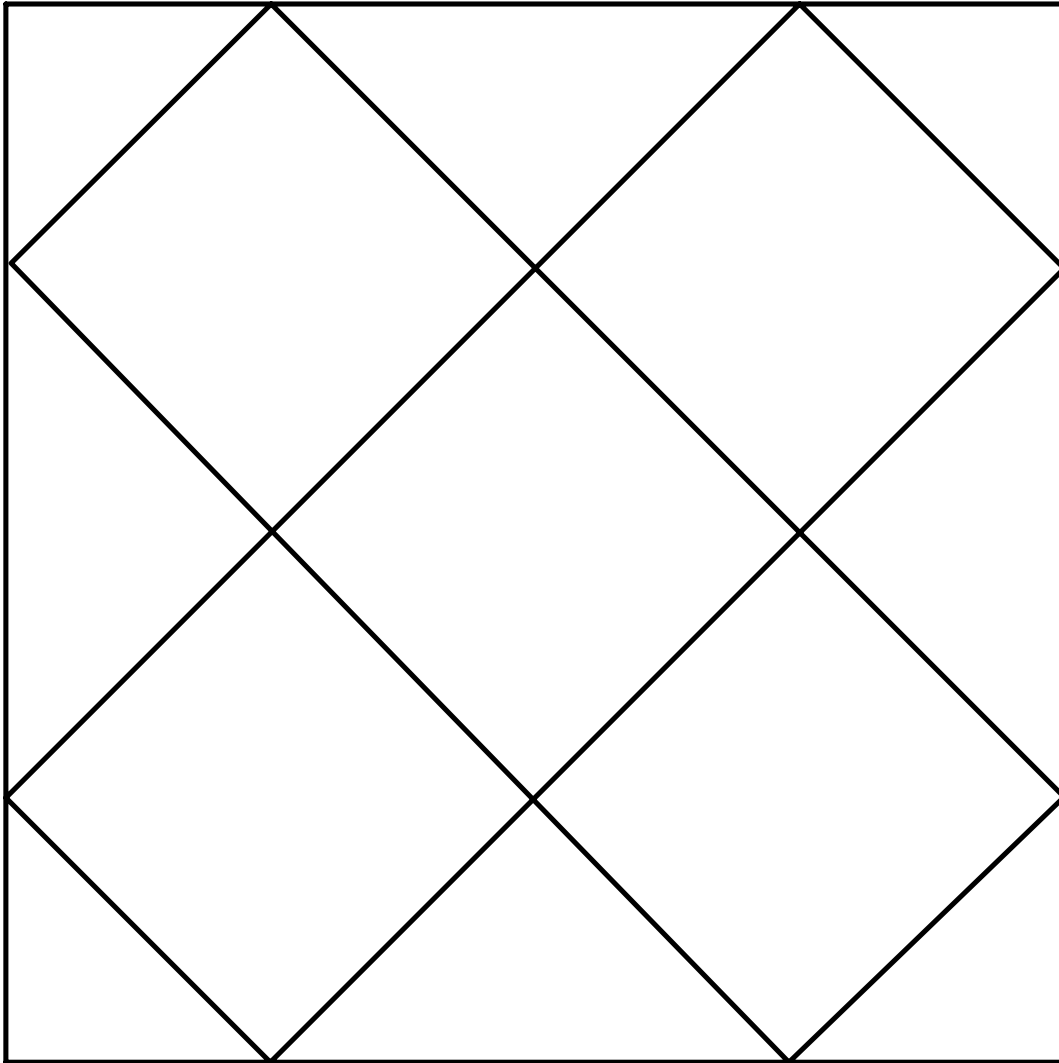


<b>Name:</b>	

## ...to the Crossroads.

### Once they got to the crossroads they...

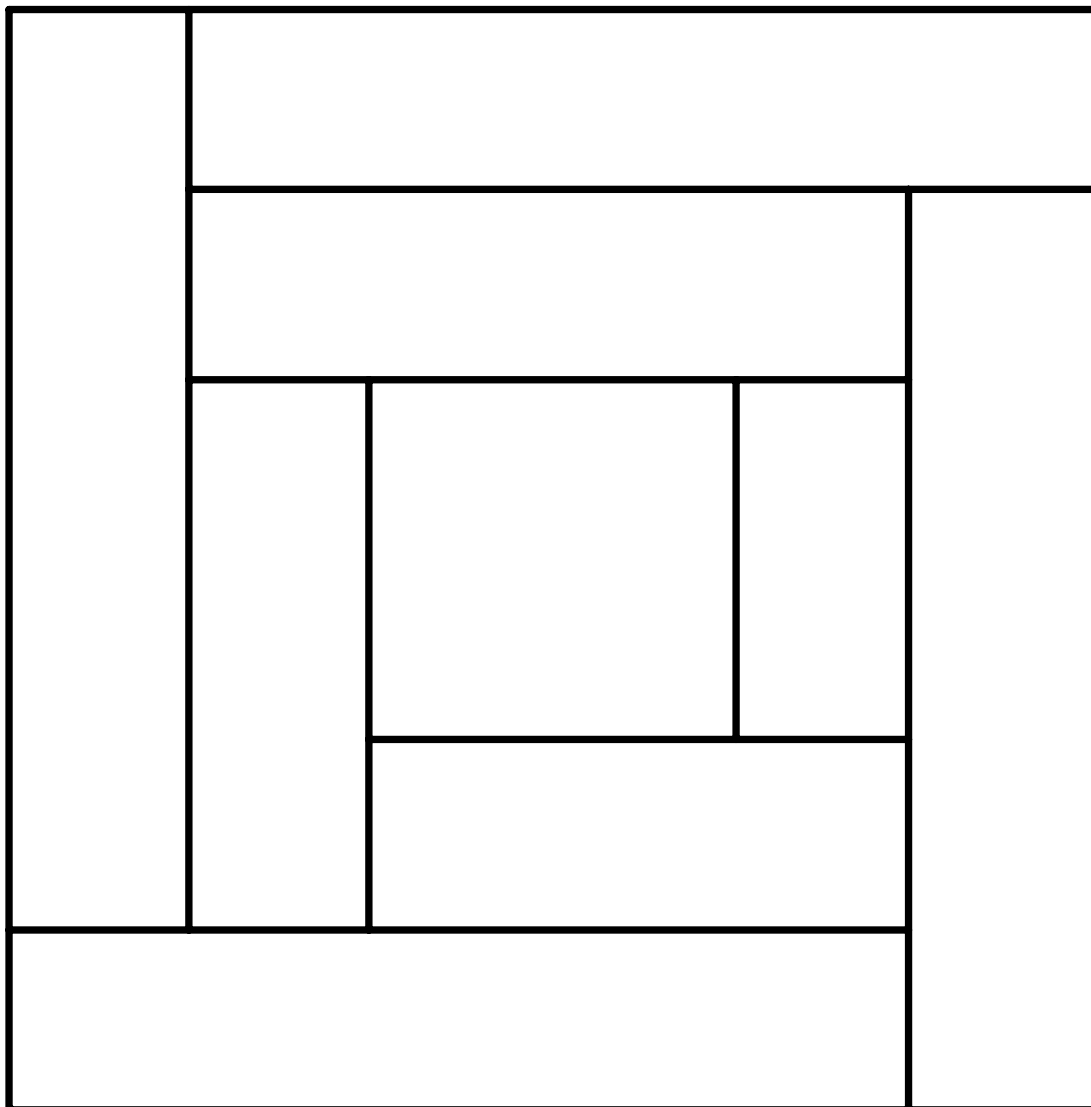
In the code, the crossroads was Cleveland, in the free state of Ohio. Cleveland was the place where many overland trails began, from here travelers could chose from 4 or 5 different paths to Canada. Special preparations may have been needed to be made before the next part of the journey to Canada began. How do you think the slaves felt after their long journey through the mountains?



<b>Name:</b>	

## ...dug a Log Cabin on the ground.

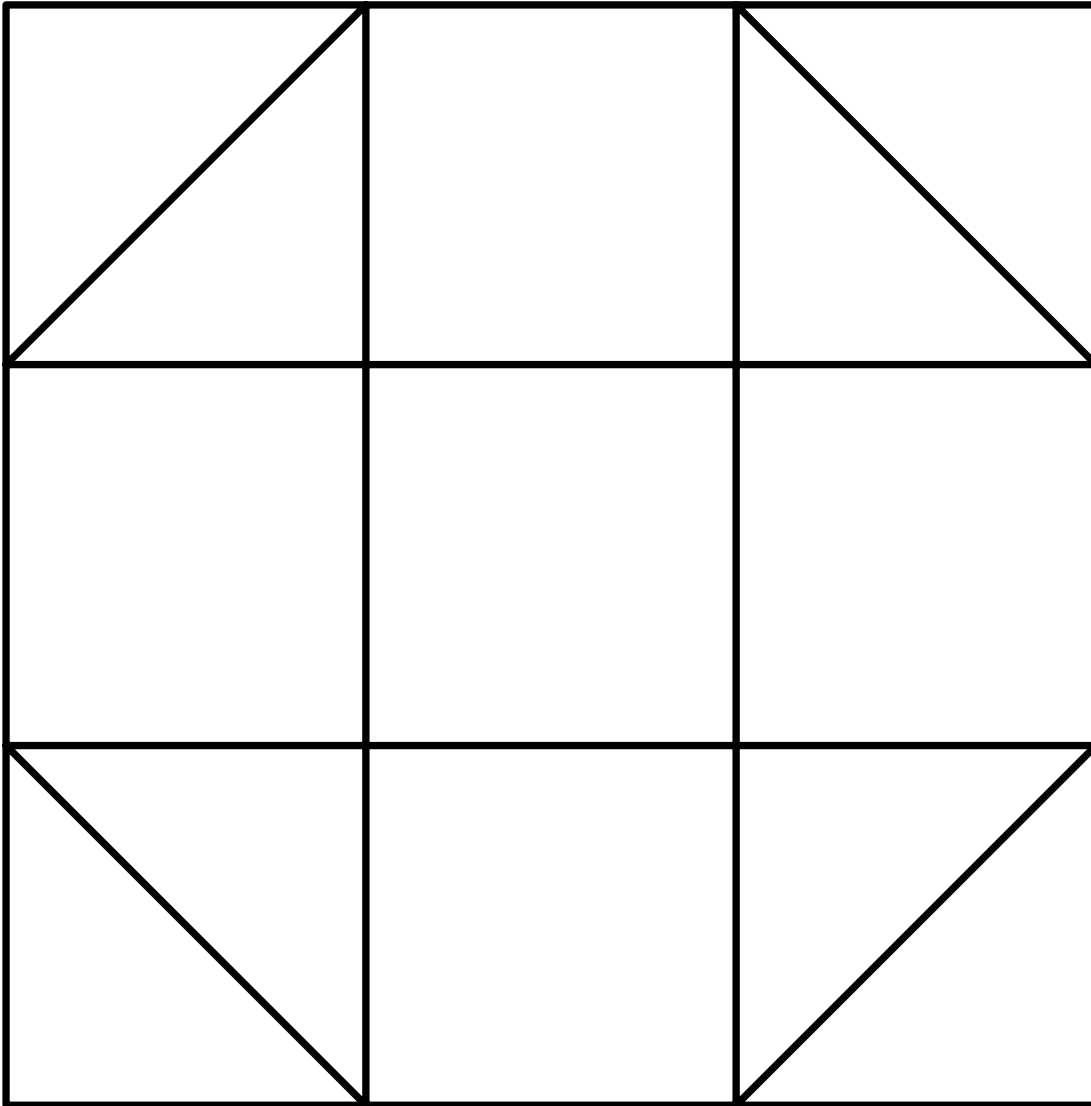
This part of the code may be telling the traveler to draw a picture in the dirt for a 'Conductor' to see, or to look for a cabin displaying a quilt with this pattern. The slaves would have been tired, cold and hungry. Do you have any ideas about what the secret of this pattern could be telling the slaves?



<b>Name:</b>	

# Shoofly told them to dress up in...

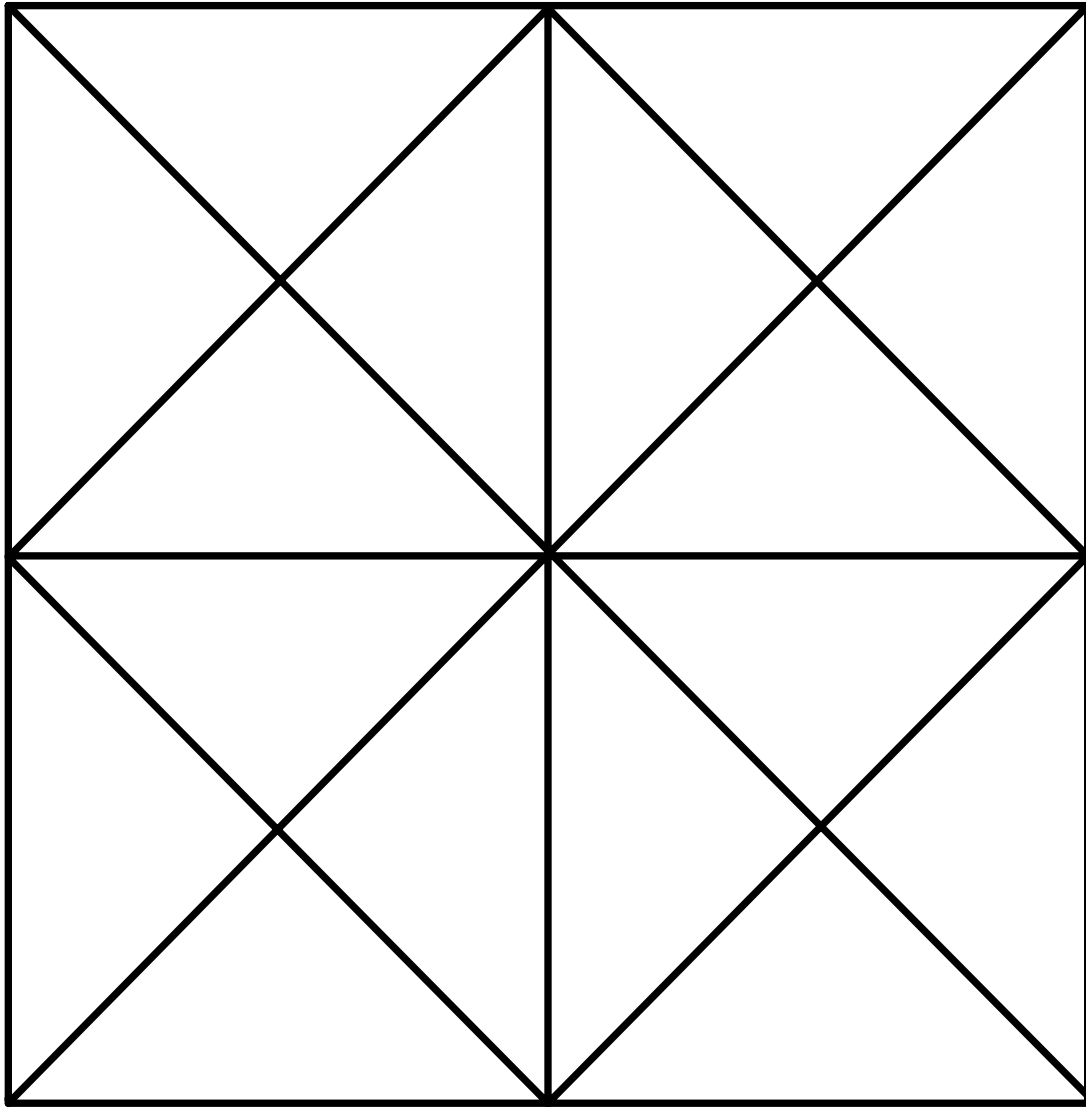
An old quilter, Ozella Williams, believed this part of the code was telling people to look for free blacks who knew about the Underground Railroad. Shoofly may have been a special person who would help the travelers to get rid of their dirty, torn and tattered old clothes.



<b>Name:</b>	

# ...cotton and Bow Ties and go to the cathedral church,

Runaway slaves needed to wear new clean clothes so they would look like the free blacks who lived in the north. They may have been hidden in a church until it was time for the next part of their journey.



<b>Name:</b>	

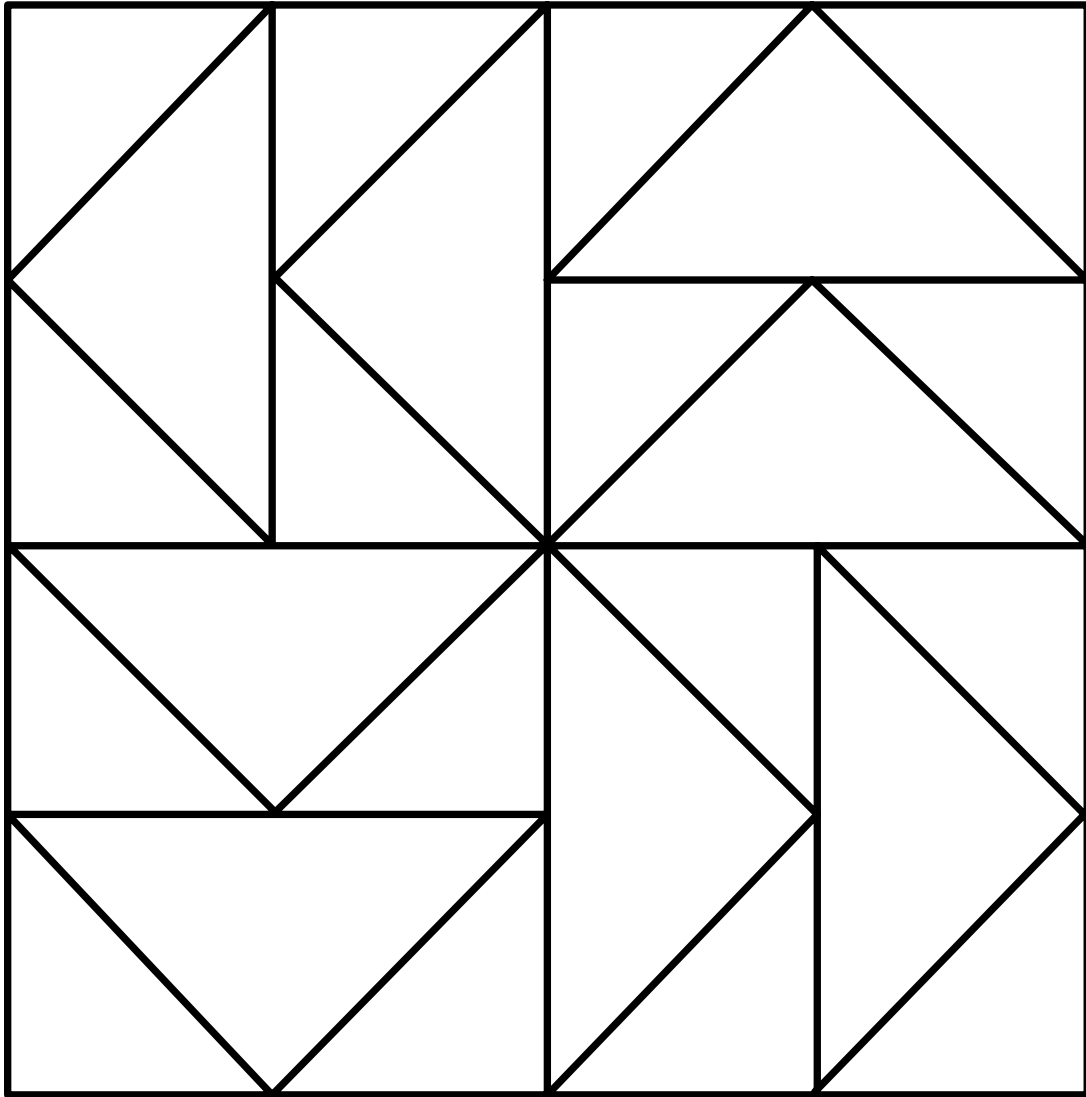
# . . . get married and exchange Double Wedding Rings.

Ozella believed that this pattern told the travelers to rid themselves of metal chains and throw away the chains remaining in their hearts from slavery. In order to avoid being captured, an escaped slave needed to act like a free born person. No one knows what this pattern looked like, what do you think this pattern looked like? Write about your pattern design below.

<b>Name:</b>	

# Flying Geese stay on...

Geese fly north in the springtime and their flight path could tell the travelers which direction they were heading. Do you think the travelers needed to travel by day or night after they arrived in the Free States? What else could the geese show them?

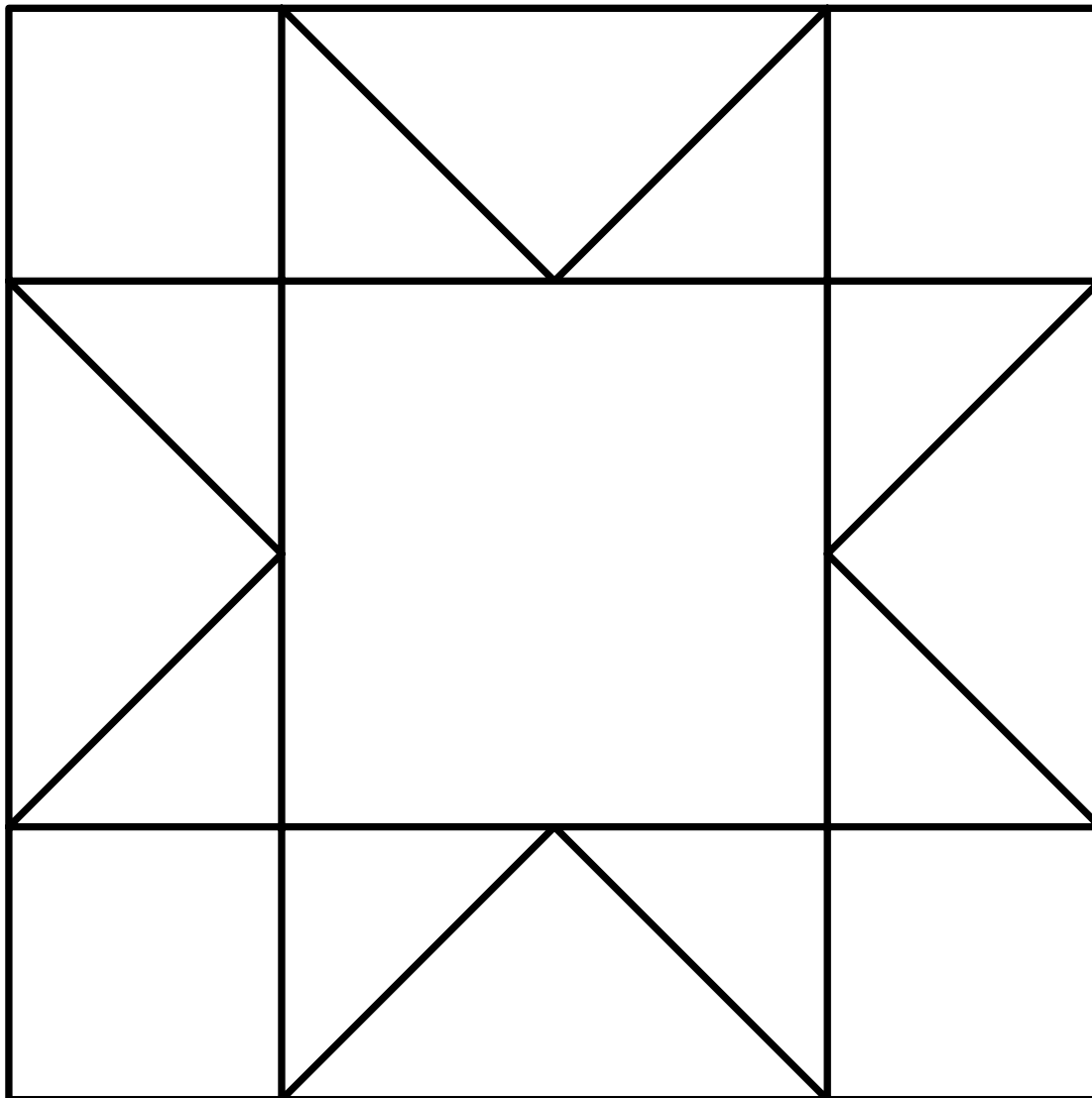


<b>Name:</b>	



# ...and follow the Stars.

Why do the travelers need to follow the stars? What is special about this star?  
Write your thoughts below.



<b>Name:</b>	