






GLOSSARY

quilt	<p>A bed covering or blanket, usually created in 3 layers: a decorative top, an interior batting made of cotton, wool, or polyester fibers for warmth, and a backing. Quilting is the process of stitching all three layers together.</p> <p>Traditional 6-Step Process</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Select a pattern, fabrics for top and back, and interior batting. 2. Measure and cut fabrics to the correct size to make blocks from the pattern. 3. Piece (sew together) blocks to make a finished top layer. Add embroidered details or appliques, if desired. 4. Make a quilt sandwich by layering the quilt top with batting and backing, usually using a quilt frame to hold the fabrics taut. 5. Quilt (stitch) the three layers together. 6. Square up and trim excess batting from the edges, sew the binding to the front edges of the quilt, and then hand-stitch the binding to the backing.
appliqué	In needlework, a decorative piece of material applied over a foundation material.
artifact	A physical item created by people in a certain time and location, anything from a quilt to a trashcan to a piece of pottery.
batting	Stuffing for the interior (middle layer) of the quilt to make it warmer, usually out of cotton, wool, or polyester fibers.
beau	Boyfriend.
blue ribbon	First prize in a competition.
bronco	A wild or half-trained horse in western North America.
calico	A brightly colored, printed cotton fabric with a small-scale floral or geometric design.
chain stitch	An embroidery technique where a series of looped stitches resemble a chain.
china	Fancy, white dishes, sometimes with a pattern, a prized item in late 19 th and early 20 th century households. They are made from a fine white ceramic from minerals from China.
crochet	Using a hooked needle, this needlework loops yarn or thread into a fabric.
corn cob doll	Originally made by Native Americans, 19 th century settlers on the Great Plains also created homemade dolls with corn cobs after the kernels of corn were removed.
deterioration	Wear and tear. Because most quilts were designed to be used, frequently they become worn out, frayed, soiled, or damaged.
dryland farm	The short grass prairie of the Sandhills is one area with little rainfall. Farmers have to choose crops that need less water than other, more fertile areas.
embroider	To decorate a fabric with needlework stitches.
exhibition	Public display or competition for works of art or handcrafts.
farm	A piece of land used to grow crops to sell, not just for home use. Animals may also be raised, but the crops are the main product.
Four-Patch quilt	A quilt made up of many small blocks. Each block (or square) is composed of four small squares of cloth sewn together to create a larger block.
hand-appliqué	An appliqué that is sewn on by hand rather than by machine.
hand-piece	To stitch or sew a quilt by hand rather than by machine.
hardship	Life conditions that cause trouble or suffering.
heifer	A young, female cow that has not yet had any calves.
hexagon	A shape with 6 sides, all of the same length. 
homestead	To settle free or cheap land given by the government. Also, the name of the land that is homesteaded. Most homesteads were farms.
Homestead Act of 1862	An act passed by Congress in 1862 promising ownership of a 160-acre tract of public land to a citizen who lived on and cultivated the land for five years.



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Icon	A person or thing that represents something bigger. Grace Snyder is an icon of quilting because of her amazing ability, number of quilts, and wide recognition.
intricate	Very detailed, complicated, or complex.
machine-piece	To sew or stitch together a quilt using a sewing machine.
motif	A decorative, reoccurring design or shape.
mosaic	A final design created by putting together many smaller pieces. Usually, all of the pieces in a mosaic are the same shape – hexagons, diamonds, or squares.
pattern	A guide design or example used to help create other designs.
petit point	 A type of embroidery using small, diagonal stitches.
piece	Sewing together small pieces of fabric for a quilt top. Quilts usually start with a number of smaller blocks that are then sewn or “pieced” together.
primary source	Anything created by humans who experienced an event firsthand. Primary sources include documents (diaries and letters), artifacts (physical items, such as tools and clothing) as well as interviews (oral elements). A quilt is both an artifact and a primary source.
purple ribbon	Traditionally in Europe, purple is considered the color of royalty. A purple ribbon is given to the best of all the blue ribbon winners from individual areas in a competition.
quilt sandwich	The process of quilting requires 3 layers (interior batting and outside 2 layers) that look like a sandwich.
quilt tag	A small piece of fabric with the name of the quilter and sometimes the date, sewn in one corner of a quilt in order to identify it.
ranch	A piece of land used to raise animals for sale, usually cattle.
Sandhills	The Sandhills is a region of mostly short grass prairie on rolling sand dunes in north-central Nebraska, covering just over one fourth of the state and mainly used for ranching.
scallop	A series of curves in a row that make a border. 
secede	To withdraw from formal membership. Several southern states in the U.S. in the 1860s decided they no longer wanted to be part of the United States, so they seceded from the union.
social norm	Behavior expected by a group or larger society.
sod house	A sod house is built in areas with little other natural materials, such as stone or wood. Chunks of earth are cut out of the prairie and used like bricks to build the home. The tangled grass roots remain in the sod bricks to keep the dirt together and help with insulation of the home.
swag	A curved design of fruit, flowers, or other greenery that may be sewn around an edge.
symmetry	When a design is divided into equal parts, all parts look the same, except perhaps they may be mirror images of each other.
trademark	A recognizable design that identifies a particular maker or source. Grace had several trademarks that knowledgeable viewers would recognize as hers, such as her tiny, perfectly even stitches and multiple, tiny pieces in her quilts.
weave	Interlaced yarns or threads that create a fabric or basket. Baskets were frequently woven out of straw, with varying, interesting patterns.

For more quilting information:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quilting>

<http://www.quiltstudy.org/>