

No-Sew Cross-Stitch Patterns

The age-old craft of cross-stitch is perfect for an exploration of repeated patterns.

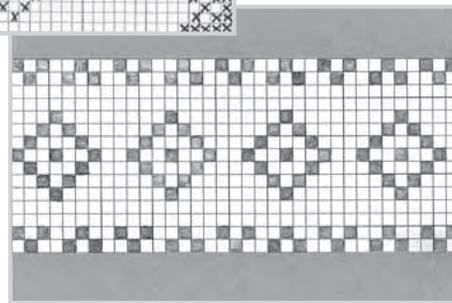
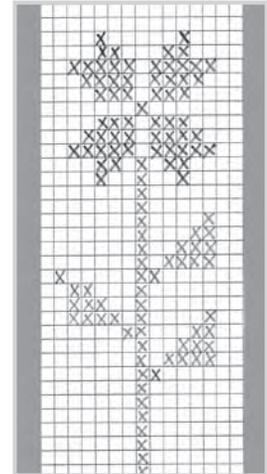
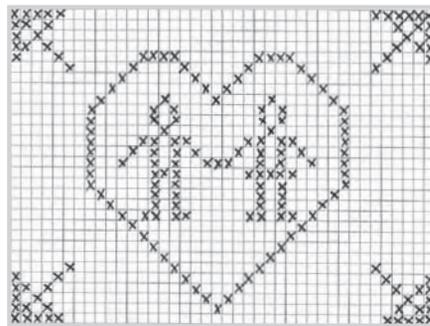


Materials

- * $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch grid paper, page 3
- * colored pencils or markers

Optional:

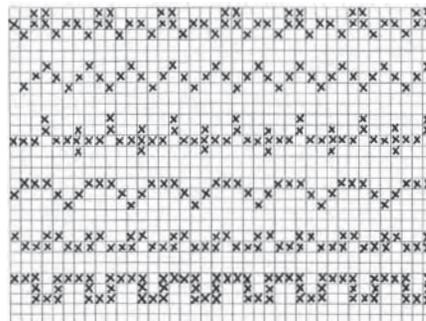
- * cardstock or tagboard
- * scissors
- * glue sticks
- * construction paper



1. If possible, show students photographs of cross-stitch samplers with borders that have repeating patterns as well as Native American beaded designs. Encourage students to describe the patterns they see and notice how they repeat. Then tell them that they are going to create cross-stitch patterns on paper.
2. Copy a sheet of grid paper onto transparency film or scan for use on a whiteboard. Demonstrate how to make a simple pattern by drawing colored X's in the squares on the grid. Point out how both color and shape can be used to make a design that repeats. Start a few patterns and invite volunteers to continue them.

Teaching Tip

Instead of using X's, students might color in the boxes on the grid paper to create their designs.

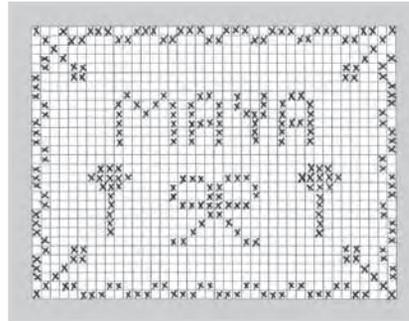


3. Provide students with sheets of grid paper and colored pencils or markers and invite them to create repeating cross-stitch designs of their own. Students can then turn their designs into a variety of decorative items:

Teaching Tip

Have students sketch their patterns in pencil before using coloring tools.

- **Sampler:** Create a repeating border around the edges of a sheet of grid paper. Inside the border, experiment using cross-stitch to create designs, pictures, and letters to write a name or greeting. Mount on construction paper.



- **Bracelet or Armband:** Make a repeating design about 5 to 6 squares tall along the short edge of the grid paper. Cut out the section of the grid with your pattern and glue it to a strip of same-sized cardstock or tagboard. Attach the strip to your wrist or arm with a piece of tape.



- **Belt:** Repeat the directions above but make several same-sized patterns along the length of the grid paper. Cut out and glue the patterned strips end to end to make one long strip and then glue to a strip of cardstock or tagboard. Trim to fit around your waist and punch a hole in each end. Use brass fasteners to fasten the belt.

- **Cross-Stitch Pictures:** Celebrate different holidays by drawing a large outline of a stocking, holiday tree, gift, heart, or egg. Fill the shape with repeating rows of cross-stitch patterns, then cut out the shape.

