

Explore shapes and colors as you make this unique cake.

Nine Patch Quilt Cake

Materials/Equipment Needed:

- Ready-to-go unfrosted 8- or 9-inch square cake
- Vanilla frosting ingredients or prepared frosting
- Option 1: DecoEdible paper or rice paper (available at local craft or cake decorating store)
- Option 2: Colored frosting for piping in tubes, decors, licorice string, coconut, chips, nuts, colored sugar
- Recommended book for children about quilts
- Quilt book with easy nine-patch pattern examples using triangles and squares.
- A square blank paper divided into 9 squares

Ingredients:

- 2 ½ cups all -purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup butter
- 8 tablespoons cold water
- 4 medium cooking apples
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon chopped pecans
- 1 tablespoon raisins
- 1 egg white, slightly beaten
- Granulated sugar for sprinkling

Activities:

- Read together a recommended children's book about quilts. Show a picture of nine-patch quilt pattern.
- Provide paper nine-patch patterns. Have child imagine which squares will be patterned and which will be blank to make a pattern. What do they want to design on the patterned squares? They may want to simply color triangles and squares to make a pattern.
- Spread a thin layer of vanilla frosting over each square cake's surface.
- Using decorator icing or string licorice, divide into nine equal squares.
- Use the paper plan to begin their quilt cake design. A child should be able to design or color two or three squares of DecoEdible paper OR decorate the squares as planned on the cake.
- Provide decors, frosting, colored sugars, nuts, chips, coconut. Attach the decorated edible paper with a fresh thin coat of icing.

BAKING ACTIVITY: Nine Patch Quilt Cake

Many people begin quilting with the nine-patch quilt. There's room for many different combinations of patterned and plain squares and triangles.

Let's create a quilt on cake for starters!

- Bake one, 8- or 9-inch square cake. (Use a favorite recipe or mix.)
- Frost the surface of the cooled cake with a thin layer of frosting.
- Divide the cake with piped frosting or licorice string into nine even squares.
- Create a Nine Patch Quilt pattern on the surface of the cake.

Option 1: Cut one sheet DecoEdible* paper into nine, 2 ½-inch squares. Using edible paints or markers, create pictures and designs on the squares.
OR Cut some of the squares into triangles and color these solid colors. Arrange them in a geometric pattern (see quilt book for ideas)
Attach the edible paper pieces onto the cake with a fresh thin layer of frosting.

Option 2: Use frosting, food-colored coconut, decors and other edible pieces, to create patterns and decorate the squares of your own nine-patch quilt!

Example: Simple Nine Patch Pattern

Dots or blank	Three triangles	Dots or blank
Three Triangles	Star	Three Triangles
Dots or blank	Three Triangles	Dots or blank

Creamy Vanilla Frosting

3 cups powdered sugar
1/3 cup butter or margarine, softened
1 ½ teaspoons vanilla flavoring
About 2 tablespoons milk

Mix powdered sugar and butter or margarine. Stir in vanilla and milk. Beat until smooth and spreading consistency. Divide and color for decorating, as desired.

Makes 1 1/8 cup (1 lb.) frosting

Source: Betty Crocker's 40th Edition cookbook, 1991.

BAKE FOR FAMILY FUN EXPLORATION:

- Discover the art medium of quilts as part of American folk art.
- Develop a sense of creativity with shapes and color.
- Explore using shapes and colors to make variations of a quilt cake.
- Check out a book at the library on quilts such as *The Quilter's Handbook*. Edited by Rosemary Wilkinson.
- Visit a local craft store or local quilt guild to learn more about quilts.
- Check out other great decorating tips at www.baking911.com

VOCABULARY:

Art

the conscious production or arrangement of sounds, colors, forms, movements or other elements in a manner that affects the sense of beauty

Create

cause to exist; originate

Books for Reading Together

Sam Johnson and the Blue Ribbon Quilt. Lisa Campbell Ernst.

The Quiltmaker's Gift. Jeff Brumbeau and Gail de Marcken.

Tar Beach. Faith Ringgold.