

We present the fourth block in our series of Millennium Blocks.

Canada's New Territories Block

by Hazel Wainright

This block represents the Northwest Territories of the last 87 years and the two new territories of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories which came into being on April 1, 1999.

The "Aurora Borealis" (northern lights) can be seen in the night sky right across the north but are at their most impressive seen from the area around Yellowknife. Similarly, polar bears are indigenous to areas of both territories but the majority make their home in Nunavut. The pole star shines over the whole of Canada.

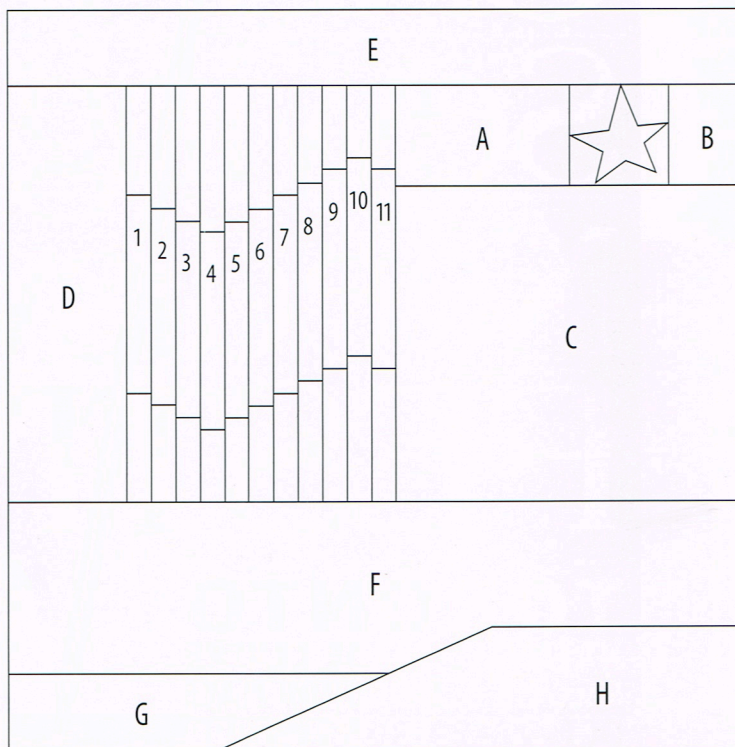
The block is 15 1/2 " finished size and includes a variety of techniques. All measurements are cut sizes and include 1/4" seam allowances.

Star section:

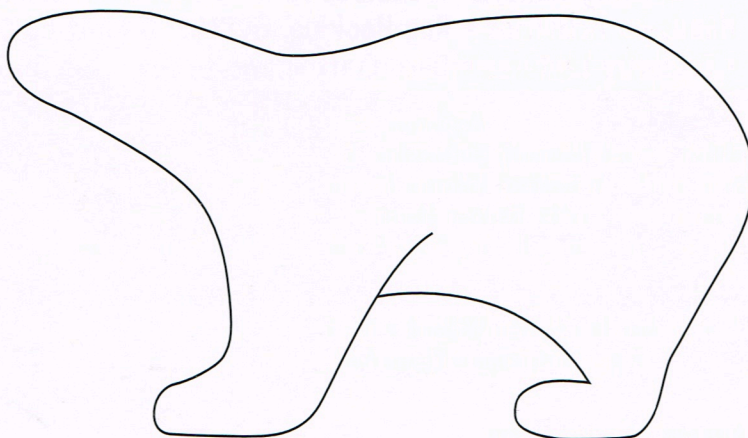
Paper piece in three sections using night sky fabric as background. Add pieces A - 4" wide x 2 1/2" long and B - 2" wide x 2 1/2" long to each side of star. Add piece C - 7 1/2" wide x 7" long.

Northern Lights section:

Cut 11 strips of night sky fabric 1" wide x 5" long. Cut 11 strips 1" wide x 4 1/2" long of assorted value fabrics for northern lights (these can be any combination of greens, yellows, pinks and purples). Lay light strips out in the order they look best. Sew top of each light strip to a sky strip using chain piecing. Do not cut apart (this will keep your strips in the order they are to be sewn). Sew bottom of light strip to the other end of the sky strip to make circles of fabric. Cut apart circle # 1 and cut across strip in sky fabric 2 3/4" above light strip. Cut



Pattern (half size)



Template (full size)

Canada's New Territories Block CONTINUED

apart circle # 2 and cut across strip in sky fabric $3\frac{1}{4}$ " above light strip. Join # 1 and # 2 down long seam. Continue to build northern lights by taking the next circle from your chain piecing and cutting across $\frac{1}{2}$ " longer (lights going down) or shorter (lights going up) than the previous piece and sew in place. Press well after each seam is sewn. Add piece D - 3" wide x 9" long.

Top section:

Sew star section and northern lights sections together.

Add piece E - $15\frac{1}{2}$ " x 2" to top edge.

Lower section:

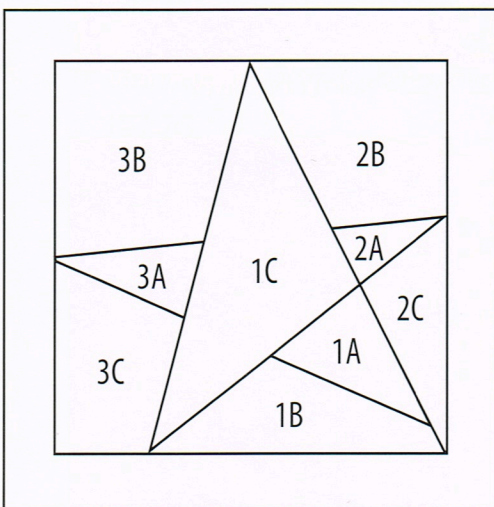
Join snow piece G - 9" wide x 2" long to night sky piece F - $15\frac{1}{2}$ " wide x 4" long matching edges at left hand side. Cut snow piece H - $11\frac{1}{4}$ " x 3" and remove corner making top edge $5\frac{1}{4}$ " as per diagram. Draw sewing line on piece FG and trim leaving $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Join H to FG, pivoting at top corner.

Polar bear :

Trace design onto fusible web, iron on to bear fabric and cut out. Remove backing and fuse bear into position. Zigzag over raw edges using small stitch length.

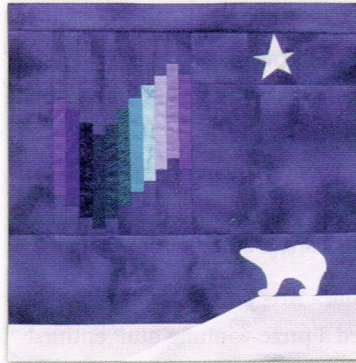
Join top and lower sections, press and square off to $15\frac{1}{2}$ ". All done!

I hope you enjoy making this block as much as I did. ✨



Template (full size)

PROFILE by Leslie Marquis



CANADA'S NEW TERRITORIES BLOCK

Hazel Wainwright

Yellowknife, NWT

If you want to know if quilting is thriving in Canada's northern regions, then meet Hazel Wainwright, a very creative person, who uses the endless beauty of Canada's far north as inspiration for her work.

Hazel originally belonged to the Yellowknife Guild of Crafts, where she made silk scarves and used batiks to create large kites to be used as wall hangings. Now, she mainly quilts and also sews lycra speed skating suits for her local skating club. Hazel says, "I enjoy the challenge of making suits to fit pre-schoolers right up to 6'4" adults". THE YELLOWKNIFE QUILT GUILD, to which she belongs has about 100 members who are as diverse as the population in age and backgrounds. The guild meets once a month and meetings usually comprise of a sharing of the news about past, present and future guild activities,



NUNAVUT '99

a short demonstration and Show & Tell by the members. There is one quilting store in Yellowknife, run by a quilt guild member from her home and members also use mail order from all over the country.

Hazel has done some teaching for her guild and at a local quilt shop (which has now moved to Beaumont, Alberta). Her workshops are developed from quilt designs and patterns that she has made and enjoys doing. Another favorite quilting activity is her participation in border challenges (Round Robins) with other quilters. They meet once a month at a local coffeehouse to pass on finished pieces. Hazel finds the challenges very exciting to do as they really “stretch” her ideas and involve colours and techniques that she would not normally use.

At the *Festival of the Midnight Sun* - Arts Festival, which is held in July in Yellowknife, Hazel entered a prize-winning quilt entitled “Ursa Major, Ursa Minor”, a large wall hanging depicting polar bears and the Northern Lights with constellations showing up in the quilting. The festival is a week long showcase for all types of artists such as painters, sculptors, potters, weavers, quilters and Dene and Inuit artists. Their works are displayed in a variety of locations such as banks and storefronts. Workshops and demonstrations are given throughout the city.

Hazel was born and raised just outside London, England but she has lived more than half her life in the North. Her husband Brian is very active in local theatre but since acting is not one of her skills, Hazel takes the tickets at the door. As their children were growing up, they tried a lot of activities such as cross-country skiing. Hazel now acts as an official for cross country skiing and speed skating, and she currently sits on the board of the NWT Speed Skating Association. She has traveled quite a bit in the far north in her capacity as a commissioner for the Girl Guides. One exciting trip involved an interpretive ecology course north of Rankin Inlet where they lived off the land and were snowed in for almost a week.

Like most of us, Hazel finds all her many activities don't leave her enough time to do all the quilting she would like to do. Her pride and joy is one of her sewing machines, bought by her grandmother with her first pay packet in 1896. It has a beautiful wooden case with gold filigree and sews straight stitches like a dream. ✚



URSA MAJOR, URSA MINOR



NORTHERN LIGHTS



Left: RAVEN FUN
Right: STAR BABIES

