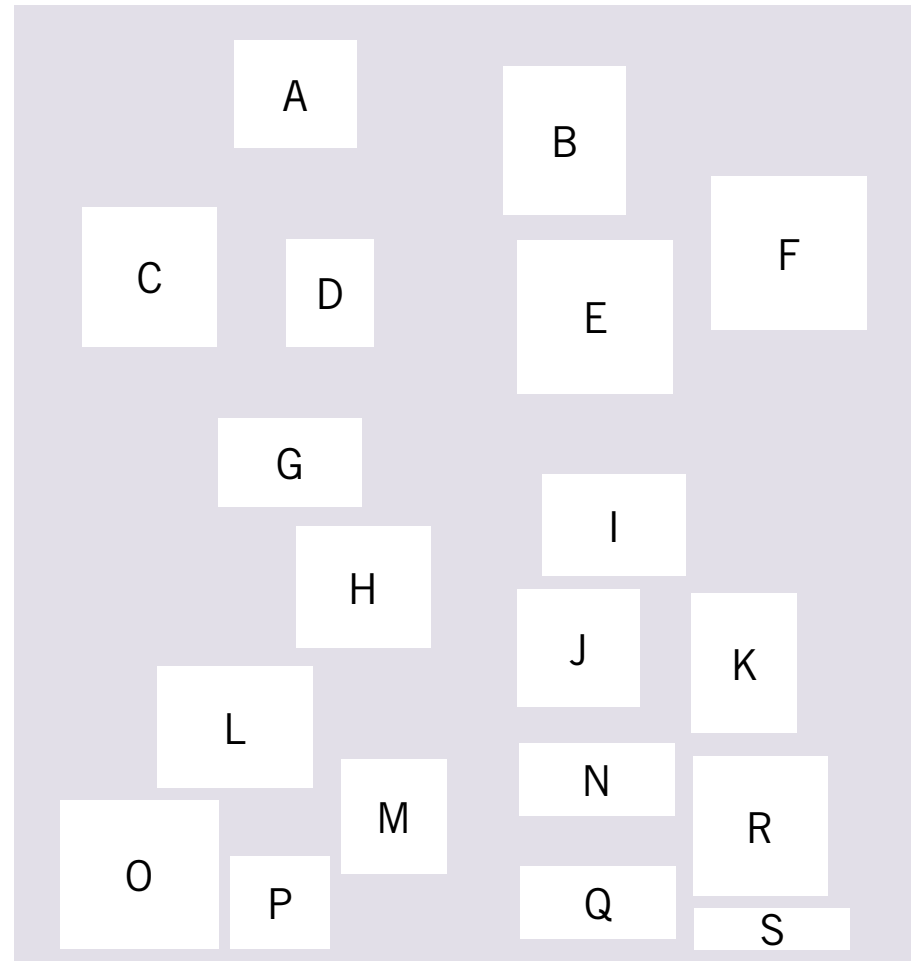


The Belize Forest Quilt



Communal effort: The women of Midway, Belize, produced their embroidered panels working together, and with their children.



American quilter Barbara Barber assembled the forest quilt at her home in Westerly, Rhode Island.



A: At 18, **Routhilia Ico** is one of the youngest quilters. She was born and raised in Midway village and recently completed high school. She hopes to become a nurse and work at a nearby health clinic. She wants better health care for her community. Her panel depicts a dove.



B: Like most families in the village, **Paulina Pau** lives in a house made of emery wood from the forest. Her panel depicts a hummingbird.



C: **Concepciona Ishim** says she loved embroidering the orchid for this panel. She had embroidered panels to sell to American missionaries when they came to build a church. She hopes to make and sell more in the future.



D: **Martha Canelo** does not know if oil drilling would benefit her community or not. She has heard both sides of the argument. Her panel depicts an Indigo Bunting.



E: **Verona Paau** moved to Midway from another village because it was one of the few in the area that had electricity. She is eager to find opportunities for making textiles. Her panel depicts a red snake.



F: **Verona Paau** takes advantage of Midway's proximity to the forest, where she collects greens and vegetables. She is eager to continue embroidery for textiles. Her panel depicts a butterfly.



G: **Paulina Pau** uses medicine against headaches that is derived from plants found in the forest by the village bush doctor. Her panel depicts a green snake.



H: **Concepciona Ishim** takes care of her four children while her husband works three weeks in every month in Belize City. She enjoyed learning to embroider and hopes to do more. Her panel depicts a Black Orchid.



I: **Martha Pau's** four-year-old son, Darwin Che, kept her company when she embroidered for the forest quilt. Her panel depicts an Opossum.



J: After a day of cooking and cleaning, **Brigida Ishim** loves to sit in her hammock and sew material that will, ideally, be sold. Her family collects gibnut meat, fish, and calalou from the forest and she hopes that SATIIM can stop oil drilling. Her panel depicts a Pink Orchid.



K: **Martha Pau** moved to Midway village eight years ago from a more remote village. She likes the idea of doing more textile projects. Her panel depicts a parrot.



L: After cooking corn tortillas and vegetables from her garden, **Rosaria Ico** settles back in a hammock to relax and embroider. Her panel depicts an Egret.



M: While her husband was attending university, **Ercilia Ishim** spent eight months in town – an experience she does not want to repeat. She found it boring and missed taking walks in the forest and bathing in creeks. Her panel depicts a duck.



N: **Candelaria Chub** was born and raised in Midway. Speaking Q'eqchi Mayan, while another quilter acted as interpreter, she said she said that she spends her days doing chores, including farming (which she loves!) and she hopes to continue to sew. Her panel depicts a Toucan.



O: **Seferina Ishim** moved to Midway from another village to be with her now husband, Tomas, a SATIIM park ranger. Her panel depicts a Jaguar.



P: **Ercilia Ishim** says the forest "is very beautiful to see and well-protected." If the park isn't protected, she says, people will lose access to medicine. If drilling happens, places will become off-limits, and water might be contaminated. Her panel depicts an endangered Hickatee Turtle.



Q: **Seferina Ishim** sees a lot of deforestation outside the park, so she's glad that a large area is protected. She believes drilling would contaminate water and spread sickness. Her panel depicts the Paca, a large rodent also known as a gibnut in Belize.



R: **Rosaria Ico** has fond memories of a peaceful childhood in Midway, playing soccer with neighbors. But she has also seen improvements: electricity and drinking water from a spigot in the middle of the village. Her panel depicts a mangrove.



S: **Martha Canelo** would like to see health services in her community. US Capital Energy built a small health post in the village, but five months later she says it still has not opened. Her panel depicts a Morelet's Crocodile.