This quilt uses a popular pattern called “Star of Bethlehem.” It was made sometime between 1870 and 1890 in Missouri by a woman named Mary Washington.

Quilting was an important activity for American women. They would sometimes create the quilts together at a “Quilting Party.” While working together, these women often discussed important topics. In the 1840s, early feminists who were fighting for equal rights for women met for quilting parties. During the American Civil War, quilts were made and sold to raise money for supplies for soldiers. From the 1870s to 1890s, quilts were still being made by feminists and to raise money for soldiers, but they also made quilts to support presidential elections, other reforms (changes), as well as national and personal celebrations like a victory in battle or the marriage of a family member.

If you got your friends together for a quilting party, what would you make a quilt for?  #46.67