

SAMPLERS

A **sampler** is a piece of embroidery produced as a demonstration or test of skill in needlework. These samplers were stitched more to demonstrate knowledge than to preserve skill. It often included the alphabet, figures, motifs, decorative borders, wise sayings and usually the name of the person who embroidered it along with the date. The stitching of samplers was believed to be a sign of virtue, achievement and industry, and girls were taught the art from a young age. Young girls honed their skills before making real clothes and bed coverings for their families. Below is an example of a sampler that is on display at Hutchison House Museum. Use some graph paper and coloured pencils to design your own sampler that shows off your skill and creativity.



A sampler done by an 11 year old girl on display at Hutchison House Museum

Below is an example of an alphabet done on graph paper.

