UP, UP, AND AWAY!

Balloons always inspire high spirits, and the colorful hot-air vessels on this uplifting afghan are no exception! The cover-up's sky-blue softness and lively motifs awaken the imagination and add a playful touch to junior's room.

Finished Size: 40" x 49"

MATERIALS

Red Heart Worsted Weight Yarn [3 ounces (170 yards) per skein (Spring Green) or 3½ ounces (198 yards) per skein (all other colors)]:
Blue Jewel - 8 skeins
Pale Blue - 2 skeins
White - 2 skeins
True Blue - 1 skein
Warm Brown - 1 skein
Maize - 1 skein
Orange - 1 skein
Jockey Red - 1 skein
Spring Green - 1 skein
Crochet hook, size H (5.00 mm) **or** size needed for gauge
GAUGE: Each Motif = 7" x 8¾"

BALLOON MOTIF (Make 13)

BALLOON

Note: Referring to table for color sequence on Front and Back of each Balloon, make 3 Balloons **each** of A, B, and C, and make 2 **each** of D and E, working one row of each color listed from top to bottom.

Hint: Instead of weaving in yarn ends, tuck ends between Front and Back of Balloon, before working Joining Rnd.

A	B	C	D	E
Red	Orange	Maize	Green	T. Blue
Maize	Green	T. Blue	Orange	Red
Green	Maize	Red	T. Blue	Orange
T. Blue	Red	Orange	Maize	Green
Orange	T. Blue	Green	Red	Maize
Green	Maize	Red	T. Blue	Orange
Maize	Green	T. Blue	Orange	Red
Red	Orange	Maize	Green	T. Blue

FRONT

To work treble crochet (abbreviated tr), YO twice, insert hook in st or sp indicated, YO and pull up a loop, (YO and draw through 2 loops on hook) 3 times.

♡ With first color, ch 4; join with slip st to form a ring.

♡ **Row 1** (Right side)**:** Ch 4 (**counts as first tr, now and throughout**), 6 tr in ring; finish off: 7 tr.

Note: Mark last row as **right** side and bottom edge.

♡ **Row 2:** With **wrong** side facing, join next color with slip st in first tr; ch 3 (**counts as first dc, now and throughout**), 2 dc in each of next 5 tr, dc in last tr; finish off: 12 dc.

To work Puff St, YO, insert hook in st indicated, YO and pull up a loop, YO, insert hook in **same** st, YO and pull up a loop, YO and draw through all 5 loops on hook.

♡ **Row 3:** With **right** side facing, join next color with slip st in first dc; ch 2 (**counts as first hdc, now and throughout**), work Puff St in next 3 dc, work 2 Puff Sts in next dc, work Puff St in next 2 dc, work 2 Puff Sts in next dc, work Puff St in next 3 dc, hdc in last dc; finish off: 14 sts.

♡ **Row 4:** With **wrong** side facing, join next color with slip st in first hdc; ch 3, ★ (dc, ch 1, dc) in next Puff St, skip next Puff St; repeat from ★ 5 times **more**, dc in last hdc; finish off: 14 dc and 6 ch-1 sps.

♡ **Row 5:** With **right** side facing, join next color with slip st in first dc; ch 3, dc in next ch-1 sp, ★ skip next dc, dc in sp **before** next dc, dc in next ch-1 sp; repeat from ★ 4 times **more**, skip next dc, dc in last dc; finish off: 13 dc.

Row 6: With **wrong** side facing, join next color with sc in first dc; sc in each dc across; finish off.

To work dc Cluster, ★ YO, insert hook in sc indicated, YO and pull up a loop, YO and draw through 2 loops on hook; repeat from ★ once **more**, YO and draw through all 3 loops on hook.

To dc decrease (uses next 2 sc), ★ YO, insert hook in **next** sc, YO and pull up a loop, YO and draw through 2 loops on hook; repeat from ★ once **more**, YO and draw through all 3 loops on hook **(counts as one dc).**

Row 7: With **right** side facing, join next color with slip st in first sc; ch 3, dc decrease twice, work dc Cluster in next 3 sc, dc decrease twice, dc in last sc; finish off: 9 sts.

To hdc decrease (uses next 2 sts), ★ YO, insert hook in **next** st, YO and pull up a loop; repeat from ★ once **more**, YO and draw through all 5 loops on hook **(counts as one hdc).**

Row 8: With **wrong** side facing, join next color with slip st in first dc; ch 2, hdc decrease, work Puff St in next 3 Clusters, hdc decrease, hdc in last dc; finish off: 7 sts.

BACK

With first color, ch 4; join with slip st to form a ring.

Row 1 (Right side)**:** Ch 4, 6 tr in ring; finish off: 7 tr.

Note: Mark last row as **right** side and bottom edge.

Row 2: With **wrong** side facing, join next color with slip st in first tr; ch 3, (2 dc in each of next 2 tr, dc in next tr) twice; finish off: 11 dc.

Row 3: With **right** side facing, join next color with slip st in first dc; ch 2, work Puff St in next 3 dc, work 2 Puff Sts in each of next 2 dc, work Puff St in next 4 dc, hdc in last dc; finish off: 13 sts.

Row 4: With **wrong** side facing, join next color with slip st in first hdc; ch 3, skip next Puff St, ★ (dc, ch 1, dc) in next Puff St, skip next Puff St; repeat from ★ 4 times **more**, dc in last hdc; finish off: 12 dc and 5 ch-1 sps.

Row 5: With **right** side facing, join next color with slip st in first dc; ch 3, dc in next ch-1 sp, ★ skip next dc, dc in sp **before** next dc, dc in next ch-1 sp; repeat from ★ 3 times **more**, skip next dc, dc in last dc; finish off: 11 dc.

Row 6: With **wrong** side facing, join next color with sc in first dc; sc in each dc across; finish off.

Row 7: With **right** side facing, join next color with slip st in first sc; ch 3, dc in next sc, dc decrease, work dc Cluster in next 3 sc, dc decrease twice; finish off: 8 sts.

Row 8: With **wrong** side facing, join next color with slip st in first dc; ch 2, hdc in next dc, work Puff St in next 3 Clusters, hdc decrease, hdc in last dc; do **not** finish off: 7 sts.

Joining Rnd: Ch 1, do **not** turn; with **wrong** sides of Front and Back together,

Front facing you and working through **both** thicknesses and in end of rows, 2 sc in each of first 2 rows, sc in next row, 3 sc in each of next 2 rows, 2 sc in next row, sc in next row, place marker around sc just made for Border placement, 2 sc in same row, 4 sc in last row, 3 sc in beginning ring, 4 sc in first row, 3 sc in next row, 2 sc in next row, 3 sc in each of next 2 rows, sc in next row, 2 sc in each of last 2 rows; working across last row, skip first hdc, sc in next 6 sts; join with slip st to first sc, finish off: 49 sc.

BORDER

To sc decrease, pull up a loop in next 2 sts, YO and draw through all 3 loops on hook **(counts as one sc).**

To work double treble crochet (abbreviated dtr), YO 3 times, insert hook in st indicated, YO and pull up a loop, (YO and draw through 2 loop on hook) 4 times.

Foundation Row: With **right** side of Balloon Front facing, join Blue Jewel with slip st in marked sc; ch 5 **(counts as first dtr)**, tr in same st, 2 dc in next sc, dc in next sc, hdc in next sc, sc decrease twice, sc in next sc, sc decrease twice, hdc in next sc, dc in next sc, 2 dc in next sc, (tr, dtr) in next sc, leave remaining 32 sc unworked: 17 sts.

Row 1: Ch 3, turn; dc in next tr and in each st across.

To work Long Double Crochet (abbreviated LDC), YO, insert hook in sp indicated, YO and pull up a loop even with last st made, (YO and draw through 2 loops on hook) twice.

Row 2: Ch 3, turn; dc in next 4 dc changing to Warm Brown in last dc made, work LDC in ring at base of Balloon, skip next dc, dc in next 5 dc, work LDC in ring at base of Balloon changing to Blue Jewel, skip next dc, dc in last 5 dc.

Row 3: Ch 3, turn; dc in next 4 dc changing to Warm Brown in last dc made, dc in next 7 sts changing to Blue Jewel in last dc made; cut Warm Brown, dc in last 5 dc.

Row 4: Ch 3, turn; dc in next 4 dc, dc in Back Loop Only of next 7 dc, dc in **both** loops of last 5 dc; do **not** finish off.

EDGING

Rnd 1: Ch 1, do **not** turn; working in end of rows, work 2 sc in each of first 4 rows, (2 sc, hdc) in last row; tr in same st as last dtr on Foundation Row, working in remaining sc on Balloon, tr in next 2 sc, dc in next 4 sc, tr in next 3 sc, (2 tr, dtr) in next sc, (dtr, tr, dc) in next sc, dc in next sc, hdc in next sc, sc in next 6 sc, hdc in next sc, dc in next sc, (dc, tr, dtr) in next sc, (dtr, 2 tr) in next sc, tr in next 3 sc, dc in next 4 sc, tr in next 2 sc, tr in same sc as joining slip st on Foundation Row; working in end of rows, (hdc, 2 sc) in first row, 2 sc in each of last 4 rows; working across Row 4 of Border, 3 sc in first dc, sc in each dc across to last dc, 3 sc in last dc; join with slip st to first sc: 85 sts.

Rnd 2: Ch 1, sc in same st and in next 22 sts, 2 hdc in next dtr, sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next sc, sc in next 7 sts, 2 hdc in next dtr, sc in next 24 sts, 2 sc in next sc, sc in next 17 sc, 2 sc in next sc, sc in last sc; join with slip st to first sc: 90 sts.

Rnd 3: Ch 4, dc in same st, skip next 2 sc, [(dc, ch 1, dc) in next sc, skip next 2 sts] 7 times, † dc in next st, (ch 1, dc in same st) 3 times, skip next 2 sc, [(dc, ch 1, dc) in next sc, skip next 2 sc] 5 times, dc in next st, (ch 1, dc in same st) 3 times, skip next 2 sts †, [(dc, ch 1, dc) in next sc, skip next 2 sc] 8 times, repeat from † to † once; join with slip st to third ch of beginning ch-4, finish off: 38 ch-1 sps.

SKY MOTIF (Make 12)

With Blue Jewel, ch 20 **loosely.**

Row 1: Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across: 19 sc.

Row 2 (Right side)**:** Ch 1, turn; sc in first sc, ★ hdc in next sc, dc in next sc, 3 tr in next sc, dc in next sc, hdc in next sc, sc in next sc; repeat from ★ across: 25 sts.

Note: Mark last row as **right** side and bottom edge.

To work beginning decrease, pull up a loop in first 2 sts, YO and draw through all 3 loops on hook **(counts as one sc).**

To double decrease, pull up a loop in next 3 sts, YO and draw through all 4 loops on hook **(counts as one sc).**

Row 3: Ch 1, turn; work beginning decrease, sc in next 2 sts, 3 sc in next tr, sc in next 2 sts, ★ double decrease, sc in next 2 sts, 3 sc in next tr, sc in next 2 sts; repeat from ★ once **more**, sc decrease; finish off: 25 sc.

Row 4: With **right** side facing, join White with slip st in first sc; ch 1, pull up a loop in same st and in next sc, YO and draw through all 3 loops on hook **(counts as first sc)**, sc in next 2 sc, 3 sc in next sc, sc in next 2 sc, ★ double decrease, sc in next 2 sc, 3 sc in next sc, sc in next 2 sc; repeat from ★ once **more**, sc decrease.

To work tr Cluster (uses next 3 sc), ★ YO twice, insert hook in **next** sc, YO and pull up a loop, (YO and draw through 2 loops on hook) twice; repeat from ★ 2 times **more**, YO and draw through all 4 loops on hook.

To tr decrease (uses next 2 sc), ★ YO twice, insert hook in **next** sc, YO and pull up a loop, (YO and draw through 2 loops on hook) twice; repeat from ★ once **more**, YO and draw through all 3 loops on hook.

Row 5: Ch 3, turn; tr in next sc **(ch 3 and tr counts as first tr decrease)**, dc in next sc, hdc in next sc, sc in next sc, hdc in next sc, dc in next sc, ★ work tr Cluster, dc in next sc, hdc in next sc, sc in next sc, hdc in next sc, dc in next sc; repeat from ★ once **more**, tr decrease; finish off: 19 sts.

Row 6: With **right** side facing, join Pale Blue with sc in first st; sc in each st across.

♡ **Row 7:** Ch 1, turn; sc in each sc across; finish off.

♡ **Row 8:** With **right** side facing, join Blue Jewel with sc in first sc; ★ hdc in next sc, dc in next sc, 3 tr in next sc, dc in next sc, hdc in next sc, sc in next sc; repeat from ★ across: 25 sts.

♡ **Rows 9-17:** Repeat Rows 3-8 once, then repeat Rows 3-5 once **more**: 19 sts.

♡ **Row 18:** With **right** side facing, join Blue Jewel with sc in first st; sc in each st across.

♡ **Row 19:** Ch 1, turn; sc in each sc across; do **not** finish off.

EDGING

♡ **Rnd 1:** Ch 1, turn; 3 sc in first sc, sc in each sc across to last sc, 3 sc in last sc; work 26 sc evenly spaced across end of rows; working in free loops of beginning ch, 3 sc in ch at base of first sc, sc in each ch across to last ch, 3 sc in last ch; work 26 sc evenly spaced across end of rows; join with slip st to first sc: 98 sc.

♡ **Rnd 2:** Ch 1, do **not** turn; sc in same st, 3 sc in next sc, ★ sc in each sc across to center sc of next corner 3-sc group, 3 sc in center sc; repeat from ★ 2 times **more**, sc in each sc across; join with slip st to first sc, finish off: 106 sc.

ASSEMBLY

♡ Using diagram as a guide for placement and following instructions given below, join Motifs forming 5 vertical strips of 5 Motifs each.
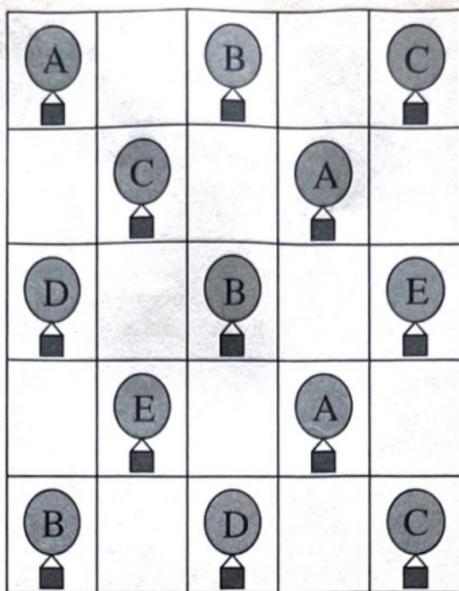
MOTIF JOINING

♡ Holding Motifs with **wrong** sides together, having Balloon Motif facing toward you, and matching top of first Motif to bottom of second Motif, join Blue Jewel with slip st in first corner ch-1 sp on **Balloon** Motif; ch 2, sc in first corner sc on **Sky** Motif, ch 2, skip next dc on **Balloon** Motif, sc in next ch-1 sp, ch 2, skip next sc on **Sky** Motif, sc in next sc, ch 2, ★ skip next 2 dc on **Balloon** Motif, sc in next ch-1 sp, ch 2, skip next 2 sc on **Sky** Motif, sc in next sc, ch 2; repeat from ★ 5 times **more**, skip next dc on **Balloon** Motif, sc in last corner ch-1 sp, ch 2, skip next sc on **Sky** Motif, slip st in corner sc; finish off.

♡ Repeat for remaining Motifs.

STRIP JOINING

♡ Place 2 strips with **wrong** sides together; with Balloon Motif to **right** and facing toward you, join Blue Jewel with slip st in first corner ch-1 sp on **Balloon** Motif; ch 2, sc in first corner sc on **Sky** Motif, ch 2, skip next dc on **Balloon** Motif, sc in next ch-1 sp, ch 2, skip next sc on **Sky** Motif, sc in next sc, ★ † skip next 2 dc on **Balloon** Motif, sc in next ch-1 sp, ch 2, skip next 2 sc on **Sky** Motif, sc in next sc, ch 2] 9 times, skip next dc on **Balloon** Motif †, sc in next ch-2 sp of joining, ch 2, sc in ch-2 sp of opposite joining, ch 2, skip first sc from corner sc of next **Sky** Motif, sc in next sc,

ch 2, skip first dc on next **Balloon** Motif, sc in next ch-1 sp, ch 2, [skip next 2 sc on **Sky** Motif, sc in next sc, ch 2, skip next 2 dc on **Balloon** Motif, sc in next ch-1 sp, ch 2] 9 times, skip next sc on **Sky** Motif, sc in next ch-2 sp of joining, ch 2, sc in ch-2 sp of opposite joining, ch 2, skip first dc on next **Balloon** Motif, sc in next ch-1 sp, ch 2, skip first sc from corner sc on next **Sky** Motif, sc in next sc; repeat from ★ once **more**, then repeat from † to † once, sc in last corner ch-1 sp, ch 2, skip next sc on **Sky** Motif, slip st in last corner sc; finish off.

♡ Repeat for remaining strips.

TRIM

♡ **Rnd 1:** With **right** side facing, join Blue Jewel with sc in top right corner ch-1 sp; sc in same sp, † sc in each dc and in each ch-1 sp across to next joining, 5 sc in joining, ♥ sc in each sc across to next joining, 4 sc in joining, sc in each dc and in each ch-1 sp across to next joining, 4 sc in joining ♥, sc in each sc across to next joining, 5 sc in joining, sc in each dc and in each ch-1 sp across to next corner ch-1 sp, 3 sc in corner ch-1 sp, sc in each dc and in each ch-1 sp across to next joining, 3 sc in joining, repeat from ♥ to ♥ once, sc in each sc across to next joining, 4 sc in joining, sc in each dc and in each ch-1 sp across to next corner ch-1 sp †, 3 sc in corner ch-1 sp, repeat from † to † once, sc in same sp as first sc; join with slip st to first sc: 588 sc.

♡ **Rnd 2:** Ch 4, 2 tr in same st, dc in next sc, hdc in next sc, sc in next sc, hdc in next sc, dc in next sc, ★ 3 tr in next sc, dc in next sc, hdc in next sc, sc in next sc, hdc in next sc, dc in next sc; repeat from ★ around; join with slip st to first tr, finish off.

Design by Judy Schuler.