

Read these linked texts:

*Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky* by Faith Ringgold  
*Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History* by Vashti Harrison  
*Tar Beach* by Faith Ringgold  
*Van Gogh and the Sunflowers* by Laurence Anholt  
*We Came to America* by Faith Ringgold

This story quilt shows a group of famous black women working together on a quilt. The women are: Madam Walker, Sojourner Truth, Ida Wells, Fannie Lou Hammer, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Mary McLeod Bethune, and Ella Baker. You could choose one or more of these women to find out about.

Why do you think Faith Ringgold chose to include them? Write a paragraph about them and why you think they have been included.

A famous male painter, Vincent Van Gogh, is also in the quilt. The setting for the quilt is a town in France called Arles, where Vincent Van Gogh painted his famous sunflower pictures. Find out more about Van Gogh here:

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-vincent-van-gogh>

You could write a fact-file about Van Gogh using the information you find out.

Faith Ringgold is known for her story quilts. Quilting is a traditional craft that has been done for thousands of years. Sometimes groups of women work together to create a quilt in a 'quilting bee'.

You could find out about Faith Ringgold's other quilts and design your own that tells a story.

You could write a letter to Faith Ringgold, sharing your design and asking her questions about her quilts.



***The Sunflower Quilting Bee at Arles* by Faith Ringgold (1991)**

You can find out more about Faith Ringgold on her website:

<https://www.faithringgold.com/about-faith/>

Perhaps you could create your own story quilt like these:

<https://kinderart.com/art-lessons/arthistory/faith-ringgolds-story-quilts/>

Look at Van Gogh. He is holding a jar of his sunflowers to show respect for the work of the female quilters. Van Gogh's paintings of sunflowers are some of his most famous. You could look at images of his paintings and perhaps create your own.

You could also describe Van Gogh's sunflowers. Can you think about your choice of adjectives and verbs to describe?