



DALLAS ARBORETUM  
Education

*Garden STEAM at Home*  
*Painted Story Quilt:*  
*Connections*



WE GROW MINDS, TOO.



## PAINTED STORY QUILT



### OBJECTIVE:

STUDENTS WILL CREATE A VISUAL STORY EXPLAINING A SCIENCE PHENOMENON ON FABRIC IN THE STYLE OF FAITH RINGGOLD.

### SOURCE

DickBlick.com

### BACKGROUND

Dick Blick's Painted Quilt Story lesson plan explores telling a story in a quilt, like American author and artist Faith Ringgold. Many students and teachers may be familiar with Ringgold's classic illustrated book, *Tar Beach*, but many are surprised that she has produced art for decades, including quilts which tell stories through illustrations.

We recommend using this style for students to share their science learning for a variety of science topics. See our recommendations below.

### TAKE IT FURTHER

1. **Vocabulary:** Use a word list for a specific topic as the starting point. Ask students to cut out objects that represents each word for use in the quilt (e.g. predator, prey, producer, consumer). Then, create a habitat painting as the background of the quilt. Then, encourage students to write or share out their learning using the finished art piece.
2. **Life Cycle:** Assemble a complete life cycle using cut out objects in the quilt.
3. **Regular and repeating patterns:** Illustrate one or multiple regular and repeating patterns including seasons, moon phases, shadows, and tides through your painted story quilt.
4. **Food chain/Food web:** Demonstrate a complete food chain or food web in your quilt.
5. **Structure and Function:** Create cut outs that demonstrate an adaptation. Then, when your paint additional illustrations to demonstrate your understanding of the structure and its function in the quilt.
6. Tell the story of weathering, erosion and deposition in a story quilt.

### DIGITAL RESOURCES

Dick Blick Painted Story Quilt Lesson Plan:  
<https://www.dickblick.com/lesson-plans/painted-story-quilt/>

Faith Ringgold Art (see 1980s for Quilts):  
<https://www.faithringgold.com/art/>

ArtNet Faith Ringgold Feature:  
<http://www.artnet.com/artists/faith-ringgold/>