

## For Liberty

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

1. The Statue of Liberty is \_\_\_\_\_.  
Ⓐ called the New Colossus  
Ⓑ a poem by Emma Lazarus  
Ⓒ a symbol of France
2. Emma Lazarus cared about \_\_\_\_\_.  
Ⓐ a plaque for the Statue of Liberty  
Ⓑ becoming famous  
Ⓒ people who faced difficult times
3. In your opinion, what kind of person was Emma Lazarus? Support your opinion with facts from the text.

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4. How would you summarize the poem “The New Colossus”?

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5. What was the author’s purpose in writing this text?

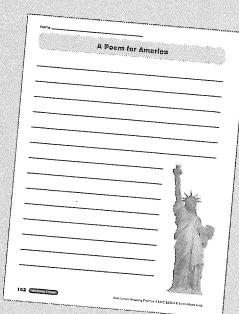
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### Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Compose a poem about the America you know today.  
Describe what you are most grateful for. Your poem  
does not have to rhyme.



# Harriet Powers, Quilter

## Level 1 ■

Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

**Story Quilts**

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence.

**Story Quilts**

Museum story tellers say that people will be able to see them for a long long time. The National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., has Lincoln's top hat. The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston has a quilt made by Harriet Powers. A picture of it is shown below.

Harriet Powers was born in 1837 in Georgia. She was on enslaved African Americans. She died after the Civil War. Harriet Powers was a seamstress, a weaver, a needle worker, a threader, and a cloth to make clothes. Her quilts were very special. Each quilt block had a different shape cut from cloth. Some were squares, and some were thick, bold shapes. Some were small, and some were large. Each block told a story. Some stories were Bible stories, such as Jesus' birth, the Last Supper, and the Resurrection. Some stories were about people who had been slaves. Some stories were about people who had been free. Harriet Powers said one picture showed a woman named Bets. The logo on 500 miles away from Virginia.

A huge meteor shower happened in 1833. People saw hundreds of thousands of shooting stars. Some people thought the stars were angels. Some people said a meteor shower would bring good luck. Some people said the stars were the souls of their mothers. Some people said the stars were the souls of their fathers. Some people said the stars were the souls of their own families. Some people said the stars were the souls of their own children.

Harriet Powers was a weaver, a cloth to make clothes. She made a quilt that was very special. It was a story quilt. It was a story quilt because it told a story. Each block had different shapes. Each block had bright colors of cut-out cloth. The shapes were like the outlines of Bible stories. Her quilt had many different shapes. Some people who saw her quilt said it looked like a quilt at the Cotton Fair in Athens, Georgia. People said she made a quilt that was very special. They called her a "story quilt like R."

The second quilt has five blocks. This is the quilt you can see at the National Museum of American History. This quilt tells the story of the Civil War. The center block tells the story of the Battle of Bull Run. The other four blocks show scenes of the Civil War. People were frightened, and some were sad. Some people were angry. Some people were happy. Some people told stories about the Civil War. Some people told stories about the war ending. Newspapers wrote stories about the Civil War. After the Civil War ended, Harriet Powers was very happy. She sewed a picture about it.

We don't know how many quilts Harriet Powers made in her lifetime. But today we have two beautiful examples of her craft work.

174 Harriet Powers, Quilter B  
Illustration: Barbara Probst Feldman

175 Harriet Powers, Quilter C  
Illustration: Barbara Probst Feldman

## Level 2 ■ ■

Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

**Story Quilts of Harriet Powers**

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence.

**Story Quilts of Harriet Powers**

If you are in Boston, Massachusetts, you can visit the National Museum of American History. This museum contains many important objects. You might see Abraham Lincoln's top hat, or Thomas Edison's light bulb. You might also see a quilt sewn by Harriet Powers over 100 years ago.

Harriet Powers was born in 1837 near Athens, Georgia. She was on enslaved African Americans. She was freed when she was 18 years old. She and her husband had their own farm. She was the mother of at least nine children.

Harriet Powers was a weaver, a cloth to make clothes. She made a quilt that was very special. It was a story quilt. She and her husband had their own farm. She was the mother of at least nine children.

In 1837 there was a meteor shower. Some people who saw the stars said they were angels. Some people said the stars were the souls of their mothers. Some people said the stars were the souls of their fathers. Some people said the stars were the souls of their own families. Some people said the stars were the souls of their own children.

Harriet Powers was a weaver, a cloth to make clothes. She made a quilt that was very special. It was a story quilt. Each quilt block had different shapes. Each quilt block had bright colors of cut-out cloth. The shapes were like the outlines of Bible stories. Her quilt had many different shapes. Some people who saw her quilt said it looked like a quilt at the Cotton Fair in Athens, Georgia. People said she made a quilt that was very special. They called her a "story quilt like R."

The second quilt has five blocks. This is the quilt you can see at the National Museum of American History. The center block tells the story of the Battle of Bull Run. The other four blocks show scenes of the Civil War. People were frightened, and some were sad. Some people were angry. Some people were happy. Some people told stories about the Civil War. Some people told stories about the war ending. Newspapers wrote stories about the Civil War. After the Civil War ended, Harriet Powers was very happy. She sewed a picture about it.

We don't know how many quilts Harriet Powers made in her lifetime. But today we have two wonderful examples of her beautiful work.

176 Harriet Powers, Quilter D  
Illustration: Barbara Probst Feldman

177 Harriet Powers, Quilter E  
Illustration: Barbara Probst Feldman

## Level 3 ■ ■ ■

Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

**Harriet Powers, Quilt Artist**

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence.

**Harriet Powers, Quilt Artist**

If you are in Washington, D.C., you can visit the National Museum of American History. This museum contains many important objects. You might see Abraham Lincoln's top hat, or Thomas Edison's light bulb. You might also see a quilt sewn by Harriet Powers over 100 years ago.

Harriet Powers was born in 1837 near Athens, Georgia. She was on enslaved African Americans. She was freed when she was 18 years old. She and her husband had their own farm. She was the mother of at least nine children.

In 1837 there was a meteor shower. Some people who saw the stars said they were angels. Some people said the stars were the souls of their mothers. Some people said the stars were the souls of their fathers. Some people said the stars were the souls of their own families. Some people said the stars were the souls of their own children.

Harriet Powers was a weaver, a cloth to make clothes. She made a quilt that was very special. It was a story quilt. Each quilt block had different shapes. Each quilt block had bright colors of cut-out cloth. The shapes were like the outlines of Bible stories. Her quilt had many different shapes. Some people who saw her quilt said it looked like a quilt at the Cotton Fair in Athens, Georgia. People said she made a quilt that was very special. They called her a "story quilt like R."

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We don't know how many quilts Harriet Powers made in her lifetime. But we have two wonderful examples of her beautiful work.

178 Harriet Powers, Quilter F  
Illustration: Barbara Probst Feldman

179 Harriet Powers, Quilter G  
Illustration: Barbara Probst Feldman

## Assemble the Unit

Reproduce and distribute one copy for each student:

- Visual Literacy page: Harriet Powers, Quilter, page 171
- Level 1, 2, or 3 Reading Selection and Reading Comprehension page and the corresponding Words to Know list
- Graphic Organizer of your choosing, provided on pages 180–186
- Writing Form: A Famous Quilter, page 172

## Introduce the Topic

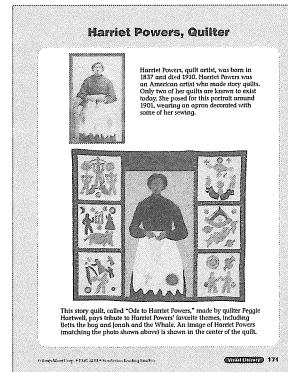
Review the Visual Literacy page about Harriet Powers with students. Explain that Harriet Powers was a talented quilter whose quilts showed her favorite stories. Tell students that the quilt shown below the photo was made by a quilter who admired Harriet Powers' work and wanted to make a quilt about her life.

## Read and Respond

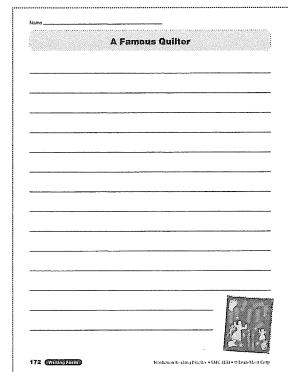
Form leveled groups and review the Words to Know lists with each group of students. Instruct each group to read their selection individually, in pairs, or as a group. Have students complete the Reading Comprehension page for their selection.

## Write About the Topic

Read aloud the leveled writing prompt for each group. Tell students to use the Graphic Organizer to plan their writing. Direct students to use their Writing Form to respond to their prompt.



Visual Literacy



Writing Form

# Harriet Powers, Quilter



Harriet Powers, quilt artist, was born in 1837 and died in 1910. Harriet Powers was an American artist who made story quilts. Only two of her quilts are known to exist today. She posed for this portrait around 1901, wearing an apron decorated with some of her sewing.



This story quilt, called "Ode to Harriet Powers," made by quilter Peggie Hartwell, pays tribute to Harriet Powers' favorite themes, including Betts the hog and Jonah and the Whale. An image of Harriet Powers (matching the photo shown above) is shown in the center of the quilt.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## A Famous Quilter

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## **Words to Know**

### **Story Quilts**

treasures

museum

carvings

quilt

enslaved

African American

Civil War

artist

cloth

meteor shower

sewed

storyteller

## **Words to Know**

### **Story Quilts of Harriet Powers**

museum

treasures

carving

quilt

enslaved

African American

Civil War

artist

displayed

meteor shower

frightened

storyteller

sewed

lifetime

outstanding

## **Words to Know**

### **Harriet Powers, Quilt Artist**

museum

quilt

enslaved

African American

Civil War

display

products

ordinary

fabric

artists

meteor shower

frightened

lifetime

**Harriet Powers, Quilter**



**Harriet Powers, Quilter**



**Harriet Powers, Quilter**



# Story Quilts

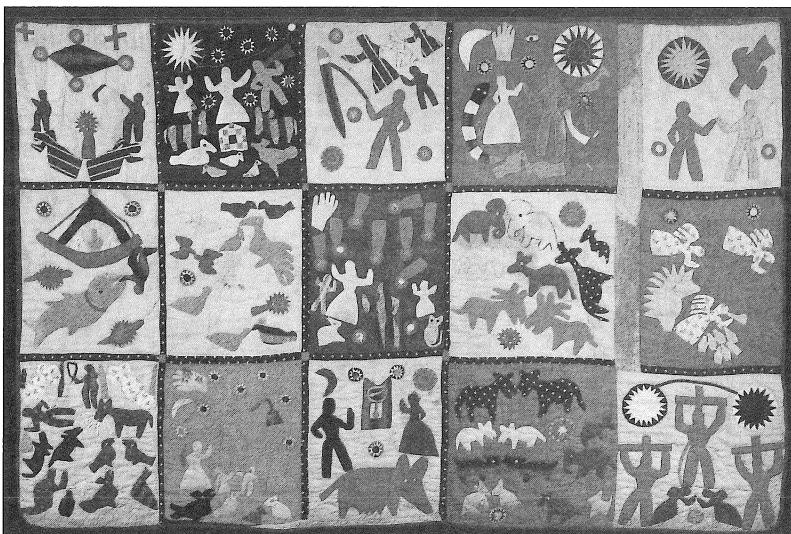
Museums store treasures so that people will be able to see them for a long, long time. The National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., has Lincoln's top hat. The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston has stone carvings from ancient Egypt. Each museum also has a picture quilt made by Harriet Powers.

Harriet Powers was born in 1837 in Georgia. She was an enslaved African American. She was freed after the Civil War. Harriet Powers was an artist. She used needle, thread, and cloth to make quilts. Her quilts were very special. Each quilt block had brightly colored shapes cut from cloth. There were people, animals, and stars. Each block told a favorite story. Some were Bible stories, such as Jonah and the Whale. Some were stories about wonders people saw in the sky. Harriet Powers said one picture story was about a hog named Betts. The hog ran 500 miles from Georgia to Virginia.

A huge meteor shower happened in 1833. People saw hundreds of thousands of shooting stars. Some people thought the world was ending. Harriet Powers sewed a picture of the meteor shower in the center of her quilt.

We don't know how Harriet Powers learned to quilt. Some people think her shapes look like the shapes made by West African artists. Maybe her mother taught her the African ways. No one knows for sure.

Harriet Powers was a storyteller in cloth. We don't know how many quilts she made during her life. But we have two examples of her special work to treasure.



The center block of this quilt tells the story of the meteor shower. Betts, the hog that ran away, is right below it. Can you find Jonah being swallowed by a whale in the second row?

## Story Quilts

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

1. The quilt blocks \_\_\_\_\_.  
Ⓐ were made in Africa  
Ⓑ tell stories of people, animals, and stars  
Ⓒ were made by Harriet's mother
2. A quilt artist uses \_\_\_\_\_.  
Ⓐ needle, thread, and cloth  
Ⓑ color, paint, and form  
Ⓒ stars, animals, and clay
3. What is the possible link between West Africa and Harriet Powers' quilts?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

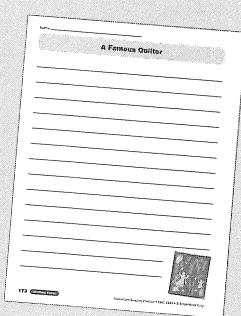
4. In your opinion, is it a good idea to put Harriet Powers' quilts in a museum? Support your opinion with facts from the text.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. If you could go back in time, which quilt story would you like to hear Harriet Powers tell in person? Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Why do you think Harriet Powers is remembered today?  
Use facts from the text to support your conclusions.



# Story Quilts of Harriet Powers

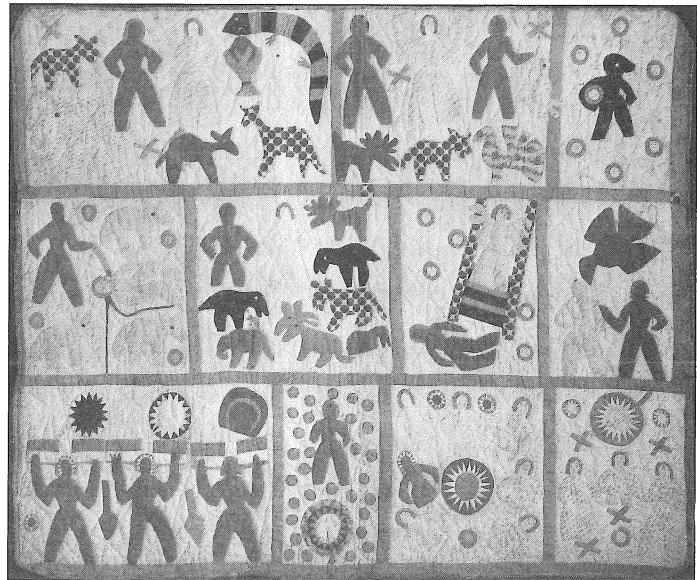
If you are in Boston, Massachusetts, you can visit the Museum of Fine Arts. This museum has many art treasures. You might see a stone carving from ancient Egypt, or a famous painting of George Washington. You might also see a picture quilt made around 1895 by Harriet Powers.

Harriet Powers was born in 1837 near Athens, Georgia. She was an enslaved African American. She was freed after the Civil War. Harriet Powers and her husband owned their own farm. They had at least nine children.

Harriet Powers was an artist with needle, thread, and cloth. She made a quilt that was very special. It was a story quilt made up of eleven blocks. Each block had bright colors of cut-out cloth. The cloth shapes showed people and animals of Bible stories. Her quilt was displayed at the Cotton Fair in Athens, Georgia, in 1886. People who saw it liked it. They asked her to make another story quilt like it.

The second quilt has fifteen blocks. This is the quilt you can see at the Museum of Fine Arts. The center block tells the story of a huge meteor shower that happened in 1833. Hundreds of thousands of shooting stars could be seen in the sky. People were frightened, and some even thought the world was ending. Newspapers wrote about it, and people told stories about the meteor shower long after. Harriet Powers was a storyteller in cloth. She sewed a picture about it.

We don't know how many quilts Harriet Powers made in her lifetime. But today we have two beautiful examples of her outstanding work.



This story quilt was displayed at the Cotton Fair in 1886. Now it is in the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

## Story Quilts of Harriet Powers

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

1. Each quilt block shows \_\_\_\_\_.  
Ⓐ a meteor shower  
Ⓑ a story that Harriet Powers knew  
Ⓒ stars and animals
2. After the Civil War, African Americans \_\_\_\_\_.  
Ⓐ became enslaved  
Ⓑ worked as slaves  
Ⓒ were free people
3. What was the author's purpose in writing this text?

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4. Harriet Powers had a large family. How do you suppose she might have used her story quilts?

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5. Harriet Powers was born in 1837. How do you think she knew about the meteor shower of 1833?

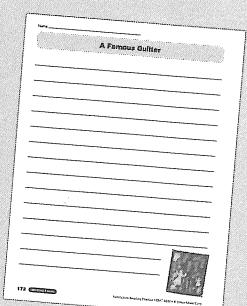
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### Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

If you could interview her, what questions would you ask Harriet Powers about her life and work?



# Harriet Powers, Quilt Artist

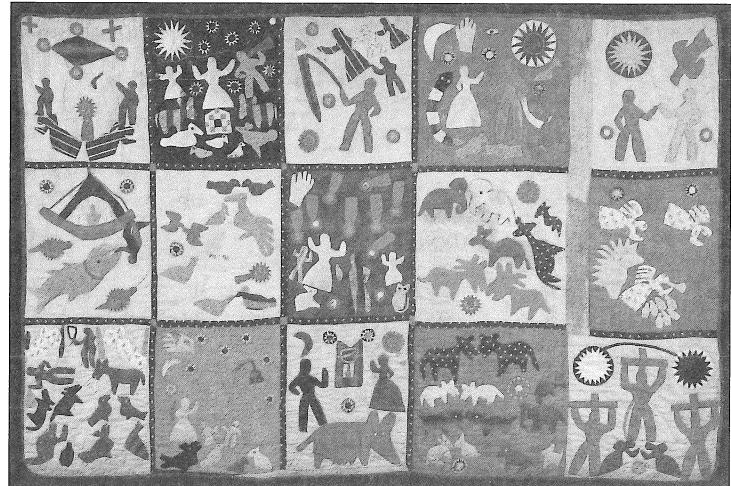
If you are in Washington, D.C., you can visit the National Museum of American History. This museum has many important objects. You might see Abraham Lincoln's top hat, or Thomas Edison's light bulb. You might also see a quilt sewn by Harriet Powers over a hundred years ago.

Harriet Powers was born in 1837 near Athens, Georgia. She was an enslaved African American. After the Civil War, she and her husband were free. They owned their own farm. She was the mother of at least nine children.

At the Cotton Fair in Athens, Georgia, people came from all around to display their farm products. In 1886, Harriet Powers displayed a quilt that was out of the ordinary. It was a story quilt made up of eleven blocks. Each block showed a Bible story in bright colors of cut-out fabric. The fabric shapes showed the people and animals of the story. Today some people think the shapes look like the fabric shapes made by artists in West Africa. How did Harriet Powers learn her art? Did her mother teach her the ways of African artists? Possibly, but no one knows for sure.

Harriet Powers made another quilt that hangs in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. This quilt has fifteen blocks. The center block tells the story of a huge meteor shower that happened in 1833. There were hundreds of thousands of shooting stars. It frightened people, and some even thought the world was ending. Newspapers wrote about the meteor shower, and people talked about it for years after. Harriet Powers sewed a picture about the meteor shower.

We don't know how many quilts Harriet Powers made in her lifetime. But we have two wonderful examples of her beautiful work.



The center block of this quilt tells the story of the meteor shower. The block directly below it tells the story of Betts, a hog that ran 500 miles from Georgia to Virginia.