

Laura Wheeler Waring

African-American Portraitist



W. E. B. Du Bois (Waring portrait, public domain)

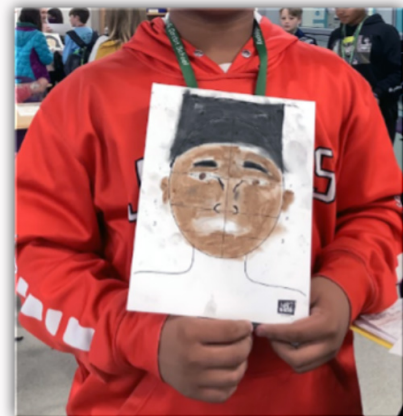
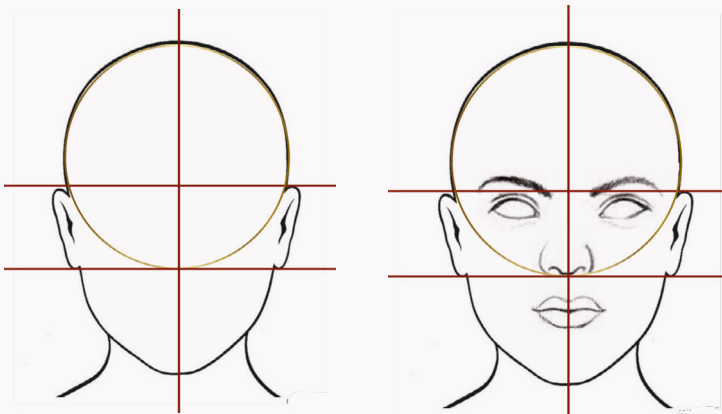
Elementary Activities

WHAT WE LEARNED:

- **Laura Wheeler Waring** was an African American portrait artist. We defined each of those terms.
- The following concepts were introduced: slavery, underground railroad, civil rights, non-violent protests, scholarship, illustration, landscape, portrait
- We identified places important to Laura's life: Hartford, Connecticut; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Paris, France; and Harlem, New York.
- We discussed her role at Cheyney University and her participation in the special Exhibition, *Portraits of Outstanding Citizens of Negro Origin*, sponsored by the Harmon Foundation.
- We were introduced to the following people: Harriet Tubman, James Weldon Johnson, Anna Washington Derry, W.E.B. DuBois, Marian Anderson, Rosa Parks, and Martin Luther King Jr.

ART ACTIVITY: PROPORTIONAL FACIAL DRAWING

The students used a template to draw a proportionally accurate face of their choice. The students noticed common mistakes and corrected them with knowledge.



FOR PARENTS

February is a good month to learn about African American history. Take advantage of this time to explore the books, videos and concepts that this lesson introduces.



THE SNOWY DAY COLLAGE (ADAPTED FROM WILDFLOWER RAMBLINGS.COM)

The Snowy Day is the first children's picture book with an African-American protagonist to win a major award, a Caldecott Medal. Keats led the way in racial diversity with his illustrations of Peter.

Materials:

- *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats
- Construction paper
- Glue bottle
- Silver glitter
- Safety Scissors

Directions:

Read the book, then invent your own paper collage after the style of Ezra Jack Keats. Cut and glue the construction paper to make characters in your picture! Make a collage of your neighborhood after a freshly fallen snow.



DAVE THE POTTER COIL POT

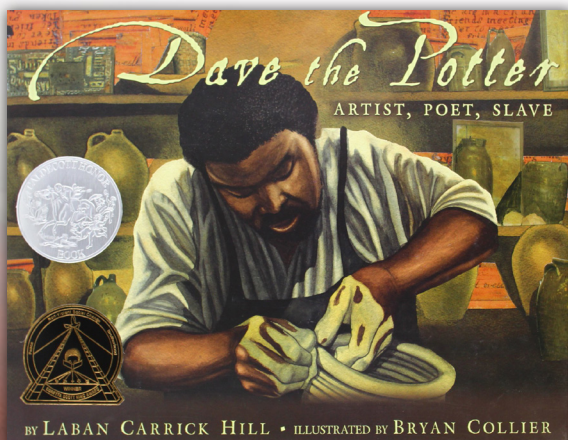
Dave was born into slavery in Edgefield, SC around 1800. Read about this amazing potter in the book, *Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave* by Laban Carrick Hill or view the read-along [HERE](#).

Materials:

- 0.5 lbs. Air Dry Clay (found at Hobby Lobby)
- Optional stylus: a wooden toothpick, a plastic utensil

Directions:

- Warm the ball of clay by kneading it in your hands. Separate the clay into two amounts: a ball roughly 1/3 and another 2/3 of the clay.
- From the 1/3 ball, form a pancake smaller than the palm of your hand. This will serve as the base.
- From the 2/3 ball, make a "snake" by rolling the clay out into a long, thin piece by gently pressing it down as you roll. Starting at one end of the "snake," begin to coil the "snake" around the top edge of the pancake base, and then wind it to make multiple levels forming the sides.



FURTHER EXPLORATION

Explore these resources and remarkable stories at your library to increase your understanding of African American culture.

African Culture Stories

Anansi the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti by Gerald McDermott (Audio book available)

Beat the Story-Drum: Pum-Pum by Ashley Bryan

Bo Rabbit Smart for True: Folktales from the Gullah retold by Priscilla Jaquith

The Hunterman and the Crocodile by Baba Wagué Diakité

Hansel and Gretel adapted by Rachel Isadora

Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai by Claire A. Nivola

Pretty Salma: A Little Red Riding Hood Story from Africa by Niki Daly

A Pride of African Tales by Donna L. Washington (Anthology of moral tales)

Seeds of Change by Jen Cullerton Johnson

A Story-A Story: An African Tale told and retold by Gail Haley

Twelve Dancing Princesses by the Brothers Grimm, adapted by Rachel Isadora

Why the Sun and the Moon Live in the Sky by Elphinstone Dayrell

Civil Rights Stories

28 Days: Moments in Black History that Changed the World by Charles R. Smith Jr.

The Civil Rights Movement for Kids by Mary Turck

Cracking the Wall: The Struggles of the Little Rock Nine by Eileen Lucas

Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly

I, Too, Am American by Langston Hughes

Martin and Mahalia: His Words and Her Song by Andrea Davis Pinkney and Brian Pinkney

Mary McLeod Bethune: A Great Teacher by Patria and Fredrick McKissack (Revised Ed.)

Mr. Tuck and the 13 Heroes: A True Story by John Harris

Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela Abridged by Chris Van Wyk

A Picture Book of Harriet Tubman by David A. Adler

Rosa by Nikki Giovanni

Ruby Bridges Goes to School: My True Story by Ruby Bridges

Ruby Bridges: This is your Time by Ruby Bridges

Seeds of Freedom: The Peaceful Integration of Huntsville, Alabama by Hester Bass

The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles

Through My Eyes by Ruby Bridges

Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library by Carole Boston Weatherford (DVD also available)

Show Way by Jacqueline Woodson

Trailblazer: The Story of Ballerina Raven Wilkinson by Leda Schubert

When Marian Sang by Pam Munoz Ryan (Audiobook available)

The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a Young Civil Rights Activist by Cynthia Levinson (Children's March Protest)

Other Great Stories and Heroes
*titles about artists

American Slave, American Hero: York of the Lewis and Clark Expedition by Laurence Pringle

**Art From Her Heart: Folk Artist Clementine Hunter* by Kathy Whitehead

**A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin* by Jen Bryant

Brick by Brick by Charles R. Smith Jr.

Baby Flo by Alan Schroeder

**Beautiful Shades of Brown: The Art of Laura Wheeler Waring* by Nancy Churnin

**Between the Lines: How Ernie Barnes Went from the Football Field to the Art Gallery* by Andrea Neil Wallace

Brave Heroes and Bold Defenders by Shirley Raye Redmond

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

A Child's Introduction to African American History by Jabari Asim

Crafts that Celebrate Black History by Ross

D is for Drinking Gourd: An African American Alphabet by Nancy I. Sanders

**Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet and Slave* by Laban Carrick Hill

Dear Benjamin Banneker by Andrea Davis Pinkney

**Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon* by Kelly Starling Lyons

Going Down Home with Daddy by Kelly Starling Lyons

**Gordon Parks: How the Photographer Captured Black and White America* by Carole Boston Weatherford

**The Great Migration; An American Story* paintings by Jacob Lawrence

Hank Aaron: Brave in Every Way by Peter Golenbock

Heroes in Black History: True Stories from the Lives of Christian Heroes by Dave and Neta Jackson (highly recommended)

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands by Kadir Nelson

**In Her Hands: The Story of Sculptor Augusta Savage* by Alan Schroeder

**Jake Makes a World: Jacob Lawrence, a Young Artist in Harlem* by Sharifa Rhodes-Pitts

Kobe Bryant: NBA Champion by Percy Leed

Lift Your Light a Little Higher: The Story of Stephen Bishop: Cave Explorer (of Mammoth Cave) by Heather Henson

The Last Black King of the Kentucky Derby by Crystal Hubbard

A Man for All Seasons: The Life of George Washington Carver by Stephen Krensky

Opening the Road: Victor Hugo Green Book by Keila Dawson

Osceola: Memories of a Sharecropper's Daughter collected by Alan Govenar (Osceola Mays' memories)

Phillis's Big Test by Catherine Clinton

**Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist, Jean-Michel Basquiat* by Javaka Steptoe

**Sewing Stories: Harriet Powers' Journey from Slave to Artist* by Barbara Herkert

**Take a Picture of Me, James VanDerZee* by Andrea J. Loney

When Marian Sang by Pam Munoz Ryan

Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman by Kathleen Krull
Your Life Matters by Chris Singleton

Videos:

HARRIET TUBMAN

MARIAN ANDERSON SINGS AT THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL IN 1939

A 25-MINUTE VIDEO BIOGRAPHY OF MARIAN ANDERSON

Due to the changing nature of web resources, M&G strongly urges you as the parent to preview these sites before your child accesses them. The fact that these sites are available on this handout does not imply that M&G endorses their content from the standpoint of morals, philosophy, theology, or scientific hypotheses.



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M&G EDUCATIONAL MISSION

Through tours, events, and publications, the Museum & Gallery seeks to partner with educators in fulfilling all of the National Visual Arts Content Standards. By integrating art into the core curriculum, M&G's goals are to teach children to value the arts, to communicate through the arts, to become creative problem solvers through the inclusion of STEAM-related concepts and fully-developed STEAM units, to understand history and culture in light of the arts, to improve literary interest and understanding through visual storytelling, to critique the arts, and to develop an aesthetic awareness of the arts. Through fulfilling the mission, M&G is able to help develop citizens who have the ability to think, feel, and understand the world in which they live.



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