A Rising People: Ben Franklin and the Americans
June-July 2009
A Landmarks in American History and Culture Workshop

Aim: How does the poetry of Benjamin Franklin reflect his legacy?
Submitted by: Katherine Goulian

Motivation:
Complete Ben Franklin description sheets (adjectives/nouns/paragraphs) individually

Development:
2. Introduce Franklin poem. Review poetry terms.

   **Mood:** the feeling of the piece
   Examples: * love * doom * fear * pride * chaos * peace
   Poet establishes mood by:
   * Choice of words,
   * Summary terms,
   * Symbolic language,
   * Structure of the sentences,
   * The length of each poetic line,
   * And the punctuation marks chosen.

   **Tone:** the writer’s attitude toward the material and/or readers.
   Examples: * playful * formal * intimate * angry * serious * ironic
   * outraged * baffled * tender * serene * depressed

3. Show excerpt of “On the Death of Ben Franklin.” Read together once. Students write down any words they don’t know. Define together as a class.
4. Read poem again. Students highlight words that capture the mood and tone of the poem. Discuss.
   How do these key words to help us understand the poem?
5. Connections:
   How does this author feel about Ben Franklin?
   Does this support information and opinions from previous classes?
6. Introduce activity. Groups will use the description sheets from the motivation to create their own Ben Franklin poems. Students will cut out words from sheets and form words on new paper to make poems. Groups must make sure their poems reveal a clear mood and tone.
Conclusion:
Answer aim. Discussion and poem sharing.

DIFFERENTIATION:
Assign Ben Franklin description sheets appropriately to student levels. Assign the paragraph to higher levels. For very low level students, use half of the sheet (students will fill out either adjectives OR nouns).
Directions:
Fill in the following boxes with the requested information. **Write only one word in each box.**

1. List 10 adjectives that describe Benjamin Franklin.

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2. List 10 nouns that describe Benjamin Franklin.

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Name____________________________               Date______________

Directions: Write a paragraph explaining Benjamin Franklin’s characteristics and accomplishments. **Write only one word in each box.**

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Excerpt from “On The Death of Dr. Benjamin Franklin”
Philip Freneau (1752-1832)

When monarchs tumble to the ground,
Successors easily are found:
But, matchless FRANKLIN! what a few
Can hope to rival such as YOU,
Who seized from kings their sceptered pride,
And turned the lightning darts aside.
Accomplishments of Benjamin Franklin  (1706 -1790)

**Printer/Writer**
- Opened a print shop
- Started a newspaper
- Franchised his print shops throughout the colonies
- 1733 – publishes Poor Richard’s Almanac, a HUGE bestseller
- Began his autobiography

**Inventor**
- lightning rod
- bifocals
- Franklin stove
- odometer
- library chair
- first clock with a second hand
- simple electric motor
- battery to store electricity
- electric bells

**Scientist**
- proved lightning was electricity
- charted the Gulf Stream
- studied ocean creatures
- investigated population growth
- observed how environmental changes
- effected birds
- studied eclipses and the Northern Lights
- studied fossils
- thought of daylight savings time
Public Servant

- fundraiser for 1st public hospital
- founded the Philadelphia Academy, now UPENN
- created Philadelphia’s 1st fire brigade and fire insurance company
- Royal Deputy Postmaster for all 13 colonies
- America’s 1st Postmaster General