Ben Franklin: A Renaissance Man

**Grade:** Intermediate (3rd – 5th)

**Objective:** To identify and describe the many ways Ben Franklin contributed to the growth of Colonial Times in America through creating a power point presentation.

**Prerequisites:**
1. Students should know how to create power point slides.
2. Students should be familiar with the Colonial Time period.

**Instructional Procedures**

**Introduction**
1. Teacher will show pictures of Colonial America from the 1700’s.
2. Students will read some excerpts from narratives of people from that time period.
3. Students will view on Quick Time Movies “Glimpse of the Man.”

**Core Activity**
1. The teacher will explain to the students that Ben Franklin was a man of many different facets that greatly influenced the growth of Colonial times.
2. The teacher will discuss that there were seven major areas that Ben Franklin greatly contributed to. They are the following: inventions, science, printing, philosophy, music, economy, and government.
3. Split the class into groups having each group take an area.
4. Ask each group to utilize the computer and books to research their area.
5. The students are to write 2-3 paragraphs on their findings.
6. When the writing is completed, the students are to edit and create power point slides utilizing their information.
7. They are to import visuals for their power point.

**Closure Activities**
1. Teacher will consolidate all the slides into a power point presentation.
2. The class will view the power point presentation.
3. Teacher will review with students the most important aspect from the power point.

**Evaluation**
1. Teacher will utilize a check list to assess student’s performance on this activity.
2. The check list will include the following:
-organization
-visuals
-accuracy of info
-creativity
-well written description

**ESOL/Special Education considerations:**

1. Assign weaker students to find visuals.
2. Give students pre-printed information on Ben Franklin. Have them highlight relevant information for the slides.
3. Have the students give their peers or the teacher the information verbally and teacher or student will place information on computer.

**Materials:**

1. Books on Ben Franklin
2. Computer
3. Highlighters
4. Pre-printed articles

**Follow Up:** Students will learn about other men that were influential during the Colonial Times.

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