Title: Ben Franklin, Printer’s Apprentice

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Materials:
• Alphabet tiles (with letters written backwards)
• Ruler
• Paper
• Who Was Ben Franklin by Dennis Fradin

Procedure:
1. Discuss young Ben Franklin’s life as a printer’s apprentice and how he would have hand set type to print the New England Courant.

2. View interactive video of typesetting (Printer’s Apprentice) from at: www.benfranklin300.org/timeline/index.html

3. Give each student a set of alphabet tiles and a ruler to use as a composing stick. Challenge students to set the letters as demonstrated in video for the sentence: The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. Set a time limit for students to complete the task.

4. Discuss what was easy and what was difficult in this task. Relate their reactions to those Franklin must have felt as a printer’s apprentice.

5. Read chapter 3 in Who Was Ben Franklin?

Skills used:
• The student will recognize people and events that made significant contributions to U.S. History.
Conclusion:
1. The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog is an example of a pangram (a sentence that uses each letter in the alphabet at least once). In pairs, have students create a pangram using their favorite piece of information from chapters 1-3 in Who Was Ben Franklin?

Follow-up:
• Students will share their pangram with the class.