Title: Ben Franklin and his Kite

Submitted by: Carol Baldridge

Materials: handouts, blank kites or butcher paper cutout kite shaped, pencils, rulers, markers or colored pencils, reference books (see list below)

Introduction: The class will have read What’s the Big Idea, Ben Franklin by Jean Fritz (small groups, reading aloud, stopping for whole class discussions)

Procedure: Students complete a question packet (attached) using Fritz’s book and other reference books and monographs about Franklin.

- Choose a maxim from Poor Richard’s Almanac – student must demonstrate understanding of the maxim to the teacher (orally)
- Find 4 organizations or institutions that Franklin founded and the dates of their founding
- Find 4 of Franklin’s inventions and the approximate date of their invention
- Find Franklin’s birth and death dates
- Draw a picture of Ben Franklin (this may be traced)
- Find 2 documents important in the history of the United States
- Create a Ben Franklin timeline including: birth date, 5 other important dates, death date

Skills used: Gleaning information from a non-fiction text

- Using an index
- Using a table of contents
- Drawing

Conclusion: Students will design and create a colorful kite that includes all of the information discovered

Follow-up:

- Students will present their kites and their favorite piece of information about Franklin
- Class visits Franklin Court
References:

- Jean Fritz. *What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?*
- *The Ben Franklin Book of Easy Incredible Experiments*. A Franklin Institute Science Museum Book

Standards

- History 8.1 Historical Analysis and Skill Development Grade 3
- History 8.2 Pennsylvania History Grade 3
- History 8.3 United States History
- Arts and Humanities
  - 9.2 Historical And Cultural Contexts Grade 3

- Reading R3.A.1.2 Word Recognition Skills
- Reading R3.A.1.4 Identify and Explain the main ideas and relevant details
- Reading R3.A.2 Understand nonfiction appropriate to grade level