A Rising People: Benjamin Franklin and the Americans

Teacher’s Workshop Lesson Plans

Benjamin Franklin and his Philadelphia

Grade Level: 5th (gifted) and above

Submitted by: Gail Kenkel

1. Read the biography of Ben Franklin (I have the title and author at school). Using large poster paper, make the following headings: Early Life, Inventions, Statesman/Political Life, Scientist, Conflicts/Problems, Personality Traits. Working in groups of 4, read the book and put examples from the book into those categories. Franklin will then become the foundation for research.

2. Show the CD I made from class OR take a tour of historic Philadelphia with suggested websites I will provide for students. The pictures and places tie in with Franklin, but also bring in other people, places, and events. The theme now becomes the interconnected events, people, and places in Franklin's time.

3. I will have large pieces of foamboard that I will cut into puzzle pieces. I will hand a puzzle piece to each student, and they will choose an event, place, or person to research. They will take notes on their research and present what they learned to the class on their puzzle piece. They can use timelines, pictures, and information. On the BACK of each puzzle piece will be a map of Philadelphia on which students will pinpoint WHERE their event takes place. They must state the connection to Franklin somewhere in their presentation. When all the student presentations are done, their pieces will fit all together showing the connections with Franklin.

4. So far, the list I have generated includes Benjamin Chew, James Logan, John Adams, Samuel and Elizabeth Powell, Betsy Ross, Elfreth's Alley, Independence Hall, Quakers, Presidents’ House, slavery in the 1700s, Thomas Paine and Common Sense, Library Company of Philadelphia.