A Rising People: Benjamin Franklin and the Americans
June 26-July 1, 2011
Landmarks in American History and Culture Workshop

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Lesson Plan
Subject: Social Studies
Grade: 5
Duration: 2 class periods, 1 computer lab

Topic: Benjamin Franklin life as a printer, inventor and statesman.

Objectives:

   OK Pass Standards: Grade 5 – Social Studies: 1.2 & 4.4

Students will:

● Learn to research facts from several different resources.
● Learn to construct a timeline.
● Learn about historical facts during the 18th century

Resource/Material

Online resources:
http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/franklin-printer.html
http://www.ushistory.org/franklin/info/index.htm
http://www.librarycompany.org/bfwriter/writer.htm
http://inventors.about.com/od/fstartinventions/a/Franklin.htm
http://inventors.about.com/cs/inventorsalphabet/a/Invent_Franklin_2.htm

Biography and fiction books on Benjamin Franklin:

Examples:
Procedures and Activities:

- Begin by asking the class “Who is Benjamin Franklin.” “What did Benjamin Franklin do?” Write their answers on the board.
- Explain that they will construct a time line of his life.
- Divide the class into three groups:
  - Benjamin Franklin as a printer
  - Benjamin Franklin as an inventor
  - Benjamin Franklin as a Statesman
- Each group will be instructed to use different resources: printed material and online resources to help them construct their timeline.
- Each member will have to contribute at least one fact to be placed on the group’s timeline.
- They will be given two class times to work on them plus one computer lab time.
- Once completed, each group will share their findings (hoping that each member will give a brief description of their contribution).
- Place the finished timelines on the bulletin board and discuss the results.

Note: Let the students try and find the online resource on their own, but if they have trouble then suggest the above online resources.

Evaluation:

To determine whether the students have mastered the objectives, the teacher will look at the timelines presented.
- Was it completed in a timely manner
- Did contain what was asked of them
- Where the event in order and labeled correctly
- Where the student(s) able to discuss some of their findings.