Rosemary Peterson

**Lesson Plan**

Subject: Social Studies  
Duration: 4 weeks  
Grade 1

**Topic:** Benjamin Franklin, an American leader who made worthwhile contributions to our country as a scientist, inventor, statesman, printer, philosopher, musician and economist.

**Objectives:**

Although unable to locate PA Standards for Grade 1 Social Studies online included here are those of Grades 3 and 4.

**PA Standard Statement – Grade 3 – Social Studies 8.2.3.A**

**PA Standard Descriptor – Grade 4 – Social Studies 8.2.6.A.3**

Student will:

- appreciate Benjamin Franklin and his numerous accomplishments.
- learn to practice philanthropy by being good citizens in their everyday lives mindful of the common good.
- learn historical facts about the life, family, education, career and inventions of Benjamin Franklin.
- enjoy learning about one of our Founding Fathers through children’s literature, interactive games and activities.
- come to an appreciation of Early American life and culture.
A Rising People: Ben Franklin and the Americans  
June-July 2009  
A Landmarks in American History and Culture Workshop

**Resources/Materials**

Online resources included below:

Biographical and Fiction Books on Benjamin Franklin. Examples include:
- “Meet Benjamin Franklin” by Maggie Scarf.
- “Benjamin Franklin: An illustrated biography” by T.M. Usel.
- “Benjamin Franklin: A Man With Many Jobs” by Carol Green.
- “A Picture Book of Benjamin Franklin” by David Adler.
- “Benjamin Franklin: Virginia SOL Famous Americans K/1: by Barbara Spilman Lawson.
- “Ben and Me” by Robert Lawson.
- “What’s The Big Idea, Ben Franklin?” by Jean Fritz.

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Procedures and Activities

1. Begin the lesson by telling the class that they are going to learn about Benjamin Franklin.
2. Write on a tablet or whiteboard the word “Know”. Ask the students to state facts that they know about Ben Franklin before the lesson begins. Write their responses on the tablet.
3. Write the words “Want to Know” on the easel. Ask the students to volunteer questions that they would like answered about Benjamin Franklin as we go through the lesson. Write these questions on the tablet.
4. Read books and show online video clips and resources on Benjamin Franklin to the class. Websites: http://www.snl.fi.edu/frank/video/theme.mov http://www.bensguide.gpo.gov/
5. After reading and viewing video clips discuss with the students the answers to the questions on the easel.
6. Pass out a sheet of paper for each student for their first draft. Tell the students to write one fact that they thought was particularly interesting from the stories, online materials and discussions on Benjamin Franklin.
7. After the students have written their individuals sentences, teacher will edit first draft. Students will then publish and illustrate their sentence. Published work will be displayed.
8. After the reading of “Ben and Me” by Robert Lawson, students will complete an “Alike But Different Chart” individually and compile and class composite, responding to statements:

   -Benjamin Franklin and I are the same because…
   -I am different from Benjamin Franklin because…

10. Students will learn and discuss how Benjamin Franklin was a good citizen with the resources provided on the website: http://www.learningtogive.org/lessons/unit72/lessons6.html
11. Students will discuss how they can be good citizens looking out for the common good at home and with their classmates.
12. Students will participate in an activity making potato prints with poster paint imitating Benjamin Franklin using his printing press. Website: http://www.ushistory.org/franklin/fun/letterpess.htm
13. Students will enjoy playing checkers with Benjamin Franklin interactively on Website: http://www.ushistory.org/franklin/fun/chekers.htm this will help students develop strategies for successful game playing.

Evaluation

To determine whether the students have mastered the objectives, the teacher will conduct two different assessments.

- The first assessment is whether or not the students write a correct fact about Benjamin Franklin on their first draft with an illustration. This activity allows the students to pick something that interested them making it fun for the student and allows teacher to measure if the student understood and remembered correct information about Benjamin Franklin.

- The second means of assessment is the Electronic Portfolio activity completed in the computer lab. Each child will individually create a short presentation by entering information into the templates. See: http://webpaint.com The student will enter facts about Benjamin Franklin’s life, family, career, inventions and what they liked most about Benjamin Franklin. By having the student write one sentence about each of these categories, the teacher is able to evaluate whether or not the student has a basic understanding of who Benjamin Franklin is and his importance in history, allowing the child to view his/her slide show when the assignment is complete.

Credits
http://www.web.wm.edu/act2online/Lesson_Plan...