A Rising People: Benjamin Franklin and the Americans
Lesson Plan Grade 2

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Objective: The students will be able to:
- analyze Ben Franklin proverb
- compare and contrast lives of children in the 2000s and with Ben Franklin
- research using books, internet, etc.

Materials: So Said Ben Drawings by Michael McCurdy, Who Was Ben Franklin by Dennis Brindell Fradin,

Procedure:

Using the book So Said Ben, write the proverb “Tart words make no friends: a spoonful of honey will catch more flies than a gallon of vinegar.”

Working with partners, have students discuss what they think this means. Following the discussion, read the explanation at the bottom of page 24 as a way of introducing Ben Franklin to the class.

Read the first 4 chapters of Who Was Ben Franklin to the class, as a way to describe the early years of the life of Ben Franklin.

Working in small groups or with a partner, have students make a list of things Ben Franklin did as a child. Make a list of things they themselves do.

As a large group, compile a class list of what Ben Franklin’s early life was like using the lists generated by the class, repeat for the lives of the students.
Display a large venn diagram for the class to see.

Using the information from the class lists, fill in the venn diagram

**Assignment:**

For homework, have students use books, internet, etc. to find 3 or more facts regarding the lives of children in the 1700s.

Add the facts found to the class venn diagram the following day.