Objective:
In cross-curriculum (cooperative) teaching with the science department, students in teams of three (suggested) will perform a physical exam of Benjamin Franklin based on what we know of his diet, work, exercise, personal habits (drinking and smoking), common ailments of the day, family history, and other health issues caused by medical knowledge and practices of the day.

Purpose:
The research of primary and secondary documents for this assignment should allow the students to learn not only about Franklin, but the cultural, medical, and social environment of 18th century America. The students will have to research health, food, exercise, illness, sanitation, labor, the state of 18th century medicine, common medical beliefs and how it all can be individually applied to Franklin to assess his medical fitness.

Introduction:
---The students would be given basic information on Franklin for leads into their research and an age would be assigned to the patient, say, “Franklin at 44 years old (1750).”
---With the assistance of faculty from the science department, a medical chart will be created, similar to one that would be used today, covering such areas as:

**Family health history:** mother/father, siblings such as medical conditions, longevity, causes of death

**Personal history:** general health, level of fitness, infectious diseases, serious injuries, past medical procedures

**Work:** (as printer, diplomat, and scientist)-benefits (cardio-vascular), health risks, injuries
Diet: eating habits (most often food groups consumed), cooking preparation, water intake, alcohol consumption
Exercise: daily, weekly, level of difficulty, consistency
Environmental: air quality (work and home), water quality, and sanitation practices of the day

--- Science teacher may organize the above categories along with other deemed important categories into a medical chart format which can include a generic diagram of the male body so notations can be made pointing to injured areas or areas of medical concern.

Methodology:
Students will first get classroom biographical information on Ben Franklin to put them on the trail of sources to locate and research his medical history. A handout will be given of primary and secondary sources for student to use in their research including a presentation of a documentary video of the life and times of Ben Franklin.

Students will then go to the science teacher and create a blank medical chart based on the most important and attainable information of Ben Franklin’s habits, activities, and health at age 44 ((1750). Again the age Franklin at the time of this physical is up to the teacher.

The work will then be divided among the three person team. It is suggested that one may research Ben Franklin’s life for diet, work, and family history information. One can do the medical practices and environmental factors of 18th century Philadelphia and the third member of the team could coordinate the material and transcribe it onto the medical chart.

Finally, similar to the annual report given by the medical team after the President’s physical at Walter Reed Army Hospital, the team will give a medical report on the condition of Ben Franklin and the suspected reasons for the positive or negative medical conditions of the patient.

Materials:
Medical chart template, primary and secondary sources (including Franklin's autobiography), handout of websites for research, Ben Franklin video

Evaluation:
Students will be evaluated on evidence of use of primary sources, support evidence for medical judgments, accuracy of diagnosis, the clarity of the medical report (oral presentation), and the input of all three students into the project.