Cynthia Carr
Benjamin Franklin Lesson Plan
Third Grade
September 3, 2009

Objective: Students will collect, compare, and classify leaves according to adaptations and physical structure, then create a leaf print in the style of Franklin currency.

Materials: leaves gathered by students, ink in different colors, brayer, white paper, and examples of Franklin currency notes that depict leaf prints

Introduction: The students will have studied how plants have structures that serve different functions in growth, survival, and reproduction and know examples of diverse plants in different environments.

Procedure:

Introduce Franklin’s currency notes that depict leaf prints. Discuss how Franklin used leaves from his local environment, how the leaf print discouraged counterfeits, and the printing process.

Have the students collect leaves from their local environment.

Compare and classify the leaves according to adaptations and physical structure.

Create a leaf print in the style of Franklin. Ink the back of a leaf using a brayer. Press the inked leaf on to white paper with a clean brayer. Students continue inking and printing leaves creating a one of a kind design.

Conclusion: Display the leaf print artwork. The students will evaluate the tone, shade, and note differences in the unique prints.
California Standards:
Science, Life Sciences 3.a, 3.b, 3.d – Adaptation and physical structure of organisms
Science, Investigation and Experimentation, 5.c, 5.e
Social Science, 3.4.6 – American Heroes
Visual and Performing Arts 1.0 – Artistic Perception
Visual and Performing Arts 2.0 - Creative Expression
Visual and Performing Arts 4.0Aesthetic Valuing