Title: Look Who’s Coming to Dinner…The Franklin’s  
Submitted by: Pat Ortiz  
Grade Level: 7-9  
Materials:  
Craft Materials/Costumes  
Food Materials for Recipe Preparation  
Internet Websites: Teaching franklin.org  Ed.Helper.org  
Elfreth’salley.org  Colonial Williamsburg.org  History Channel.org  
Objectives:  
- To familiarize students with the life styles of colonial America during the 1700’s.  
- To gain a deeper understanding of the 17th century political and social society of Ben and Debra Franklin.  

Procedure:  
1. Students will divide into 2 groups…One to research Franklin’s information and the other to research 17th century dinner and dining information.  
2. Students assigned to Franklin’s research will explore the elements listed below that were common to Franklin’s world  
   A. Franklin’s Family  
   B. Franklin’s Inventions  
   C. Franklin’s Health  
   D. Franklin’s Travels
3. The group should research specific information to be used at dinner conversation to and about Franklin...Be sure to consult papers and documents of the time...

4. The other group will explore recipes, crafts and activities of the period as well as table settings of the time.

5. Students should be prepared to design dinner invitations to the Franklin’s as well as place card settings for dinner guests for display at the table.

6. Students may opt to wear colonial costumes as well as research typical music of the period. A tasting and sampling of colonial food would help to enrich the presentation of the activity.

Discussion:
Discuss the following:
How has entertaining changed from the time of Franklin to the present time?
Is home entertaining as popular today as it was in the 1700’s?
How have etiquette and manners changed since the time of the Franklin to the society that we live in today?

Follow-Up Activity
Have students write a thank you note to their host for a lovely evening of good food, fine conversation and excellent friendship.

Evaluation:
Student letters and class discussion