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Benjamin Franklin   The Almanac      3rd. grade

Objective:
The students will compare and contrast an Almanac from the past, (1733), and the present, (2009), to understand its function and purpose in both times.

Materials:
A Xeroxed copy of “Poor Richard’s Almanack” 1733

Introduction: Lesson 1.
Pass out copies of “Poor Richard’s Almanack”, 1733 in groups of 5 students. Do not say what it is. Allow students to examine, discuss, and decide what this is, the purpose, and the information being shared in it.

Procedure:
1. The teacher will list student ideas about the Almanac.
2. Review the lessons taught prior to this on Ben Franklin, and his writing of the Almanac.
3. Let students know that they were looking at an original one, spelled Almanack.
4. Look at examples of a new Almanac, 2009, and list what both Almanacs have in common, and not in common. Plot these ideas on a Venn diagram.
5. Come up with what topics/ideas seem most common to both. (Monthly information and predictions on weather etc)

Evaluation:
The class will have an idea of the most common information still shared in both almanacs. (Monthly information broken up into each day).

Introduction: Lesson 2, and 3.
Show all the various parts of the almanacs, and tell students we will be making just one part, the monthly / day charts.
**Materials:**
A teacher made grid to fill in monthly Almanac information.

**Procedure:**
1. Demonstrate how a monthly prediction, and information sheet was set out in 1733.
2. Put students into groups of two, and give them an empty grid sheet to fill in.
3. Each group will do a specific month so all months are covered January – December.
4. Each page will be set up like the following…..

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January hath XXXI days
One or two proverbs made up or recalled.
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This will be set up in columns.

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The Day// Actual day of the week// High/low tides// Moon Phases// Sunrise, sun set
Sun. is 1. ex. Ohio River draw them times
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5. The students could make up some of the information depending on the grade level, or actually do research to get the correct information to put into this.
6. Proof read for grammar, and spelling errors before handing in.
7. Xerox and compile into a book for each student.

**Evaluation:**
The students will look over the compiled books, discuss, and comment on what they did, learned, and enjoyed. Each student will then answer “Do you think an Almanac is still a useful tool in today’s world”, why or why not?