Lesson Plan
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United States History and Government
Unit 1 – The Founding of America & Ben Franklin - Founding Fathers: The Immoral Institution of Slavery

11th Grade
Group Size: 3
Random Assignment

Aim:
Students will discover the complex issues that an emerging people faced in the struggle to unite a new nation through the life of Benjamin Franklin.

Objectives:
The student will:

- Analyze the development of slavery in colonial society.
- Discover the Founding Fathers involvement in slavery, including Ben Franklin.
- Compare the arguments made for and against emancipation of slaves.
- Ponder how this information remains a blot on our Founding Father’s accomplishments.
A Rising People: Ben Franklin and the Americans
June-July 2009
A Landmarks in American History and Culture Workshop

Materials:

- 2 Videos of Founding Fathers with some of their most famous quotes in regard to slavery: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2jM7ccgi6c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2jM7ccgi6c) and [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CdofmJ-Abk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CdofmJ-Abk)
- Show Me the Franklins™ DVD [http://www.dramandakemp.com/theatre.html](http://www.dramandakemp.com/theatre.html)
- Chart Paper
- Markers

Activities:

1. Warm up activity – Videos of Founding Fathers with famous quotes on slavery.
2. Cooperative Groups – Analyze the different Founding Father’s role in Slavery and efforts to abolish it. Each group will be assigned a founding father.
3. Watch Show Me the Franklins: Discussion to follow about how this info changes the image of the Founding Fathers, does it tarnish their achievements.
4. Wrap up activity – Groups will now create a poem or drawing on the chart paper that symbolizes the movie or recreates a scene from the play and present it to the class.