A Rising People: Benjamin Franklin and the Americans
Teacher’s Workshop Lesson Plans

Who was Ben? Create a Jackdaw Kit
High School Social Studies Lesson Plan

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Objective:
The student will create a collection of objects and primary documents that symbolize Ben Franklin’s contributions to America.
The student will gain an understanding of America life in the 1700’s, by exploring Ben Franklin’s multifaceted life as a writer, statesman, scientist, and Founding Father.

Who was Ben?
Group Project – Jackdaw Kit

A jackdaw is an old fashioned word for crow, and crows are known to steal things and put them in caches. **Cache**: a hiding place especially for concealing and preserving provisions; a secure place of storage
You will be making a jackdaw kit (a collection of documents and objects), which contains many things you “steal” and place in storage about Ben Franklin.
Requirements:

1. **Container**: Your group must design a container that relates to the subject of the Jackdaw. The container will hold your jackdaw items. Your container design must have meaning that relates to Ben Franklin.

2. **Primary source documents**: Primary sources are the texts nearest to any subject of investigation. The most common primary sources are written documents, but they may also include photographs, paintings, sculptures, architecture, oral interviews, statistical tables, and even geography.
   a. Your documents will be copies of actual primary sources. These documents must have real significance or meaning regarding Ben Franklin. You must cite your source by giving credit to the website or book in which you found the document(s).
      i. 5 written documents-letters, books, essays (cite your source)
      ii. 5 visual documents- drawings, photos (cite your source)

3. **Timeline**: Create a timeline, which contains at least 15 significant events or accomplishments of Ben Franklin’s life. The timeline should be accurate and tell a story, not just snippets of information.

4. **Maps**: Locate 2 maps that illustrate some aspect of Franklin’s life. Your maps should include information you feel is relevant to Ben Franklin. Be sure to code and key your maps.

5. **Objects**: Your group will create 5 items. The objects that you create well symbolize or represent Ben Franklin. These items may be flags, poems, pamphlets, drawings, experiments, etc.

Getting Started.

1. Brainstorm a list of primary sources you might use.
2. Brainstorm a list of objects that may represent Ben Franklin.
3. Brainstorm a list of possible containers you could create.
4. Make a list of supplies you need and decide who will bring them.
5. Make a task list for each of your group members and begin your work.
Evaluation-2 Test grades:

Test 1-Jackdaw Kit
- Container Design (must be easily recognized as connected to Ben Franklin, must be creative and original) – 20 points
- Primary Source Documents (must be relevant, accurate, and meet the required elements) – 20 points
- Timeline (must be accurate and must have 15 events) – 20 points
- Maps (must be labeled and have a key) – 20 points
- Objects (reflect Franklin, original, and creative) – 20 points

Test 2- Understanding of Ben Franklin and life in the 1700’s
- Time on Task (research and group discussion) – 50 points
- Class Presentation (coherent, rehearsed, informative) – 50 points

Websites to begin search:
https://www.harrisburg.psu.edu/teachingfranklin/resources.cfm
http://www.constitution.org/primarysources/primarysources.html#17
http://www.benfranklin300.org/etc_websites.htm