"A Rising People: Benjamin Franklin and the Americans"

NEH/Penn State Teacher’s Workshop

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What would Ben Think?

Lesson Plan Objective: To teach 8th grade U. S. History students about the unique wit and wisdom of Benjamin Franklin and apply it to their lives.

Lesson Class time: One to two days

Materials needed: handouts from Poor Richard's Almanac, or from his letters, on life and prosperity.

This lesson is designed so that the students will have an opportunity to learn about Benjamin Franklin and what he thought about how to live life by reading some selected quotations of his. Each student will be given a list of half finished quotations and they will be given time to finish them the way they think they should end. They will be given time to look up any words they do not understand. After they have completed this part of the discussion, they will be given a list of the ending to the quotations and they will have to try to match them up with the correct beginnings. They will then be given the correct endings and the lesson will end with a general discussion of what their favorite quotations were, and why, and how they would fit in the world we live in today.
Quotations of Benjamin Franklin

The following is a list of quotations by Benjamin Franklin. Each one has been started. Your task is to finish each quotation the way you think is correct.

1- Beware of little expenses; ________________________________

2- A word to the wise ________________________________

3- The sleeping fox ________________________________

4- Wasting of time must be ________________________________

5- Sloth makes all things ________________________________

6- He that riseth late must ________________________________

7- There are no pains ________________________________

8- Then plow deep while sluggards ________________________________

9- If you would know ________________________________

10- For age and want ________________________________
Match the correct ending with the correct beginning by putting the number of the beginning of the quotations next to the ending.

______ ... trot all day, and shall scarce overtake his business at night; while laziness travels so slowly that poverty soon overtakes him.

______ ... save while you may: No morning sun lasts a whole day.

______ ... sleep, And you shall have corn to sell and keep.

______ ... the value of money, go and try to borrow some.

______ ... is enough.

______ ... difficult but industry makes all thing easy.

______ ... the greatest prodigality.

______ ... without gains.

______ ... catches no poultry.

______ ... a small leak will sink a great ship.
Beware of little expenses; a small leak will sink a great ship.

A word to the wise is enough.

The sleeping fox catches no poultry.

Wasting time must be, the greatest prodigality.

Sloth makes all things difficult but industry all things easy.

He that riseth late must trot all day, but shall scarce overtake his business at night; while laziness travels so slowly that poverty soon overtakes him.

There are no gains without pains.

Then plow deep While sluggards sleep, And you shall have corn to sell and keep.

If you would know the value of money, go and try to borrow some.

For age and want, save while you may; No morning sun lasts all day.

-Thoughts by Benjamin Franklin from Poor Richard's Almanac, or from his letters, on life and prosperity.