

Title – Benjamin Franklin the Citizen

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Key Words – citizen, community, volunteer, political cartoon,

Declaration of Independence

Grade Level – First Grade

Time Allotted – 45 minutes

Lesson Overview	Benjamin Franklin as a citizen and leader helped his country and community.
Guiding Question(s)	How did Benjamin Franklin help his community and country? What is a political cartoon? What is a volunteer? Why was Benjamin Franklin famous?

Learning Objectives

- Design a political cartoon.
- Interpret why Benjamin Franklin's contributions were helpful to his community and country.
- Recognize that Franklin's role as a citizen and leader helped make him famous.

Essential Historical Skills Taught

VA History SOL 1.2 The student will describe the stories of American Leaders and their contributions to our country, with emphasis on George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Abraham Lincoln, and George Washington Carver.

Historical Analysis and Interpretation: Students will hypothesize the influence that Benjamin Franklin's actions as a citizen had on America.

Assessment Tool(s)

Citizen/Inventor Smart board sort in inventor lesson

Countywide Common Assessment

Smart board True/False Activity

Materials/Resources

Mara, Will (2007). Benjamin Franklin.

New York. Scholastic

Summary: A simplified picture biography of Benjamin Franklin. Can be used to reinforce why Franklin is a “world famous” American. This book briefly covers him as a scientist, leader, and inventor.

Title: Bucket

www.ushistory.com

Summary: An image of a leather bucket. Can be used to discuss with students what it must have been like to put out a fire with only leather buckets? Ask if they think leather buckets leaked. Ask what our buckets are made out of today.

Title: Firefighter Franklin

www.ushistory.com

Summary: An image of Benjamin Franklin as a firefighter. Can be used to discuss how a firefighter helps their community. Then relate that to how Benjamin Franklin helped his community.

Title: Join or Die

www.earlyamerica.com

Summary: The first political cartoon. Can be used to introduce what a political cartoon is. Tell students that this was made by Franklin to tell the colonies they should work together to fight Europe and be free.

Title: Cheating

www.entertainment.newsday.com

Summary: A political cartoon. This image can be used to reinforce what a political cartoon is. Explain that school rules are important and that this cartoon makes fun of a school rule. Discuss what rule is being made fun of.

Title: 1st Day of School

www.entertainment.newsday.com

Summary: A political cartoon. This image can be used to reinforce what a political cartoon is. Explain that school rules are important and that this cartoon makes fun of a school rule. Discuss what rule is being made fun of.

Modifications

Students will make an individual political cartoon.

Students will draw an illustration of what they think Franklin's quotes mean.

Students will create additional true/false questions about Benjamin Franklin to share with the class.

Instructional Procedures/Process

- Share power point with students.
 - Slide 1 - Ask students what is a citizen? What does it mean to be a good citizen?
 - Slide 4 - Ask students what they think it would be like to put out a fire using leather buckets?
 - Slide 6 - Tell students that this is Benjamin Franklin as a firefighter. Ask how firefighters help their community. Ask what this tells us about Benjamin Franklin.
 - Slide 9 - Tell students that Benjamin Franklin made this cartoon to tell the colonies that they had to work together to be free from England. Explain to them that this was the first political cartoon.
 - Slide 10 - Tell students that this is a political cartoon making fun of a school rule. Ask them what school rule is it making fun of?
 - Slide 11 - Tell students that this is a political cartoon making fun of a school rule. Ask them what school rule is it making fun of?
- Students will work with a partner to create a political cartoon. Students will share political cartoon with class. Political cartoon should address a school rule.

Closure

Students complete Smart board True/False activity. Ask students to answer true or false to each statement on each card. Students will touch card and it will turn to reveal correct answer.