

Title – Benjamin Franklin the Traveler

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Key Words – traveler, leader

Grade Level – First Grade

Time Allotted – 45 minutes

Lesson Overview	Benjamin Franklin traveled to help his country.
Guiding Question(s)	What is a traveler? Why did Benjamin Franklin travel? Where did Benjamin Franklin travel?

Learning Objectives

- Demonstrate that Benjamin Franklin traveled far.
- Identify Benjamin Franklin as a “World Famous” American.
- Explain why Benjamin Franklin traveled.
- Recognize that Benjamin Franklin was an American leader who traveled to help his country.

Essential Historical Skills Taught:

VA History SOL 1.1 The student will interpret information presented in picture time lines to show sequence of events and will distinguish between past and present. 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. English SOL 1.2 The student will expand and use listening and speaking vocabularies. a.) Increase oral descriptive vocabulary c.) Follow simple two-step oral directions

Chronological Thinking: Students will distinguish between travel long ago and travel today. Students will interpret information presented on a timeline to analyze how far Benjamin Franklin traveled.

Assessment Tool(s)

Complete culminating worksheet
Countywide common assessments

Materials/Resources

Harness, Cheryl (2008). The Remarkable Benjamin Franklin.

Philadelphia, Pa. National Geographic

Summary: A picture book of Benjamin Franklin's life. Page 12 is useful in discussing Franklin's first trip to England. Page 21 & 32 addresses his visit to France and have good images of his arrival there that will support a discussion about him being famous.

Krensky, Stephen (2008). Benjamin Franklin.

New York, New York. DK Publishing

Summary: A biography of Benjamin Franklin. Chapter 8 would be helpful to read excerpts from to help students understand Ben's reasons for traveling.

Title: World Map

www.worldmaponline.com

Summary: A map of the world from the 1700's. It is useful for showing students how the world map from long ago is different than the world map today. It can also be used to show the path Benjamin Franklin took as he traveled.

Title: The Ship

www.ushistory.com

Summary: It can be used to demonstrate how Benjamin Franklin traveled. It can also be used to initiate a discussion of what traveling on a boat was like long ago.

Title: Ben Traveling

www.sonofthesouth.net

Summary: A picture of Benjamin Franklin traveling to France.

Title: Ben Entertaining

www.ushistory.com

Summary: A picture of a painting showing Ben as the center of attention during a visit to the court of French King Louis XVI. This picture can be used as an example of how well Franklin was received when visiting other countries.

Title: Ben at Court

www.ushistory.com

Summary: This 1847 painting shows Franklin trying to convince King Louis XVI to support the American cause. This picture can be used to help students understand that he was asking kings and queens for help.

Title: Ben's coonskin cap

www.ushistory.com

Summary: An engraving of Franklin in a coonskin cap. This image portrayed him as an American who was unpretentious. Europeans viewed it as a symbol of America. This is probably the earliest graphic image of Franklin.

Title: Ben on bowl

www.benfranklin300.org

Summary: Picture of a creamware bowl with Benjamin Franklin's image on it. Can be used as an example of how Franklin put his images on many items and gave them as gifts.

Demonstrates how Ben was famous.

Title: Medallion

<http://www.fi.edu/learn/sci-tech/nini-medallion/nini-medallion.php?cts=benfranklin>

Summary: A medallion with Franklin's image on it. People wore or displayed the medallions in their homes. Can be used to explain how famous Franklin was.

Title: Snuffbox

<http://www.benfranklin300.org/>

Summary: A photograph of a snuffbox with Franklin's image on it. Can be used as an example of how Franklin's image was on many items. Demonstrates how Ben was famous.

Title: 1st Stamp

http://postalmuseum.si.edu/museum/1d_Franklin.html

Summary: The first US postal stamp in 1847. Can be used to explain to students that Franklin was the first Postmaster in the United States. Can be used to initiate a discussion about how many people would have seen his image on the stamp.

Title: \$100

Summary: A hundred dollar bill. Tell students that Benjamin Franklin's image appears in the hundred dollar bill. Ask how this adds to him being famous.

Modifications

Assign small groups, and let each group perform timeline activity.

Allow students to write one fact they have learned about Benjamin Franklin on the back of a \$100.

Instructional Procedures/Process

- Present PowerPoint to class.
 - Slide 4 - Tell students that Franklin traveled to Canada, France, and England. Show them where these places are on the map. Ask students if what they can interpret from the map. How far did Ben have to travel? What does this say about his commitment to his country? Show a map from today. Ask students how the map from today is different from the map on the PowerPoint. Ask them how he would have traveled.
 - Slide 5 & 6 - Ask students what they think it would have been like to travel on a ship long ago.
 - Slide 8- Ask students what they think the picture is of. Ask what they think Ben is doing in the picture. Tell students this is a picture of Ben as the center of attention while visiting the court in France. Ask students what it means to be the center of attention? Why would Ben be the center of attention?

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- Slide 9 - Ask students what they think the picture is of. Ask what they think Ben is doing in the picture. Tell them this is a picture of Franklin going before the King and Queen to ask for help.
- Slide 12 - Ask students why they think Ben was a “world famous” American.
- Slide 13 - Explain that this was one of the first images of Benjamin Franklin that was seen by a lot of people. Tell them that this picture was very famous in Europe and represented America. Ask them what the picture says about America.
- Slide 15 & 16 - Ask students what these images can tell them about how famous Benjamin Franklin was? Ask them who they know today that has their picture on items. Ask them what they think each item is.
- Present timeline to students.
- Assign students to serve as Europe, France, Canada, Philadelphia, and the ocean. Have students hold a large blue piece of butcher paper in the middle. Put Philadelphia and Canada one side and France and Europe on the other. Give the person representing Philadelphia a ball of yarn. Teacher states information on time line as students throw ball of yarn to each country or colony stated. Discuss with students what can be learned from the final result.

Closure Students will complete culminating activity. Pass out worksheet and ask students to write something in each circle that Ben did in each role that they have learned about. Possible responses for Ben the traveler: Traveled to help his country. Ben in the coon cap was a symbol of America. Ben went to visit kings and queens to get help for his country. Possible responses for Ben the inventor: Discovered that lightning is electricity. Franklin performed an experiment with a kite and key. Ben invented bifocals. Invented swim fins. Possible responses for Ben the citizen: Franklin built the first library. Franklin formed the first volunteer fire fighters. Possible responses for Famous Ben: Traveled to different countries. His picture was on a lot of things. **Please accept any reasonable answer covered in the lessons.**