



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN: A MAN OF MANY TALENTS

Student Objectives: The students will...

1. Identify the contributions of Benjamin Franklin during the Revolutionary Period.
2. Identify the inventions of Benjamin Franklin and how they helped establish communities.

TEKS: SS 3.1B

Materials Needed: Access to the I was the First. Vote for Me! website (www.texasbar.com/iwasthefirst), copies of the Cartoon Event Strip Template.

Teaching Strategies:

1. Introduce students to I was the First. Vote for Me! website (www.texasbar.com/iwasthefirst), beginning with the introductory movie, then moving to the Benjamin Franklin segment (included in the in the third and fifth grade categories).
2. If desired, show all the segments in your grade level and allow students to vote for which one was the most significant person before concentrating on Benjamin Franklin.
3. Ask students to recall from the video the various reasons Benjamin Franklin is well remembered in our history. The video lists four categories: Printer, inventor, statesman, writer.
4. Using print or electronic media, assign students to find one piece of information about Benjamin Franklin that would fall into each category above, such as:
 - a. Printer—Poor Richard's Almanac, The Philadelphia Gazette
 - b. Inventor—Lightning rod, bifocals, stove
 - c. Statesman—Signer of the Declaration of Independence, first minister to France, Treaty of Paris, signer of the Constitution
 - d. Writer—Many quotes, Poor Richard's Almanac, other books
5. Students will use the information to form a six-segment Cartoon Event Strip.
 - a. Frame 1—Name, dates of birth and death
 - b. Frame 2—Printer
 - c. Frame 3—Invention
 - d. Frame 4—Statesman
 - e. Frame 5—Writer
 - f. Frame 6—A quote from Benjamin Franklin and what it means
6. On the reverse side of the cartoon or on another sheet of paper, students will write a persuasive paragraph which begins with: "Benjamin Franklin's greatest accomplishment was _____ because _____" to convince their audience that their choice is the best.

Extension for Gifted/Talented:

Students may conduct further research on the Treaty of Paris. What did it accomplish? Who signed it? What were the 10 points? How is it different from the Peace of Paris?

CARTOON EVENT STRIP TEMPLATE
