

Chapter 1 : The Benjamin Franklin Effect – You Are Not So Smart

Ancestry. Benjamin Franklin's father, Josiah Franklin, was a tallow chandler, a soaper and blog.quintoapp.com was born at Ecton, Northamptonshire, England on December 23, , the son of blacksmith and farmer Thomas Franklin, and Jane White.

You would probably wonder what on Earth he was trying to do. Well, if you lived in the s and knew Benjamin Franklin, this is just what you might see during a terrible storm. Ben was fascinated by storms; he loved to study them. If he were alive today, we could probably add "storm-chaser" to his long list of titles. He quickly turned his home into a little laboratory, using machines made out of items he found around the house. During one experiment, Ben accidentally shocked himself. In one of his letters, he described the shock as " Franklin spent the summer of conducting a series of groundbreaking experiments with electricity. He wrote down all of his results and ideas for future experiments in letters to Peter Collinson, a fellow scientist and friend in London who was interested in publishing his work. By July, Ben used the terms positive and negative plus and minus to describe electricity, instead of the previously used words "vitreous" and "resinous. Later the same year, he explained what he believed were similarities between electricity and lightning, such as the color of the light, its crooked direction, crackling noise, and other things. There were other scientists who believed that lightning was electricity, but Franklin was determined to find a method of proving it. By , in addition to wanting to prove that lightning was electricity, Franklin began to think about protecting people, buildings, and other structures from lightning. This grew into his idea for the lightning rod. Franklin described an iron rod about 8 or 10 feet long that was sharpened to a point at the end. He wrote, "the electrical fire would, I think, be drawn out of a cloud silently, before it could come near enough to strike Surprisingly, he never wrote letters about the legendary kite experiment; someone else wrote the only account 15 years after it took place. In June of , Franklin was in Philadelphia, waiting for the steeple on top of Christ Church to be completed for his experiment the steeple would act as the "lightning rod". He grew impatient, and decided that a kite would be able to get close to the storm clouds just as well. Ben needed to figure out what he would use to attract an electrical charge; he decided on a metal key, and attached it to the kite. Then he tied the kite string to an insulating silk ribbon for the knuckles of his hand. At the first sign of the key receiving an electrical charge from the air, Franklin knew that lightning was a form of electricity. His year-old son William was the only witness to the event. Two years before the kite and key experiment, Ben had observed that a sharp iron needle would conduct electricity away from a charged metal sphere. He first theorized that lightning might be preventable by using an elevated iron rod connected to earth to empty static from a cloud. Franklin articulated these thoughts as he pondered the usefulness of a lightning rod: Would not these pointed rods probably draw the electrical fire silently out of a cloud before it came nigh enough to strike, and thereby secure us from that most sudden and terrible mischief! His English colleagues favored blunt-tipped lightning rods, reasoning that sharp ones attracted lightning and increased the risk of strikes; they thought blunt rods were less likely to be struck. King George III had his palace equipped with a blunt lightning rod. The English thought this was just another way for the flourishing colonies to be disobedient to them. It was built in accord with his recommendations and has had only one recorded instance of lightning damage. The pointed lightning rod placed on the State House and other buildings became a symbol of the ingenuity and independence of a young, thriving nation, as well as the intellect and inventiveness of Benjamin Franklin. All rights are reserved.

Chapter 2 : Benjamin Franklin Quotes (Author of The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin)

Both Benjamin Franklin and Andrew Carnegie realized that reading, books, and the knowledge they provide, should not be for just the few rich and privileged but for anyone who wanted to learn. Because of this belief, they made books available to the general public through their philanthropy.

I have ever had pleasure in obtaining any little anecdotes of my ancestors. You may remember the inquiries I made among the remains of my relations when you were with me in England, and the journey I undertook for that purpose. To which I have besides some other inducements. Having emerged from the poverty and obscurity in which I was born and bred, to a state of affluence and some degree of reputation in the world, and having gone so far through life with a considerable share of felicity, the conducting means I made use of, which with the blessing of God so well succeeded, my posterity may like to know, as they may find some of them suitable to their own situations, and therefore fit to be imitated. That felicity, when I reflected on it, has induced me sometimes to say, that were it offered to my choice, I should have no objection to a repetition of the same life from its beginning, only asking the advantages authors have in a second edition to correct some faults of the first. So I might, besides correcting the faults, change some sinister accidents and events of it for others more favorable. But though this was denied, I should still accept the offer. Hereby, too, I shall indulge the inclination so natural in old men, to be talking of themselves and their own past actions; and I shall indulge it without being tiresome to others, who, through respect to age, might conceive themselves obliged to give me a hearing, since this may be read or not as any one pleases. And, lastly I may as well confess it, since my denial of it will be believed by nobody, perhaps I shall a good deal gratify my own vanity. Most people dislike vanity in others, whatever share they have of it themselves; but I give it fair quarter wherever I meet with it, being persuaded that it is often productive of good to the possessor, and to others that are within his sphere of action; and therefore, in many cases, it would not be altogether absurd if a man were to thank God for his vanity among the other comforts of life. And now I speak of thanking God, I desire with all humility to acknowledge that I owe the mentioned happiness of my past life to His kind providence, which lead me to the means I used and gave them success. My belief of this induces me to hope, though I must not presume, that the same goodness will still be exercised toward me, in continuing that happiness, or enabling me to bear a fatal reverse, which I may experience as others have done: The notes one of my uncles who had the same kind of curiosity in collecting family anecdotes once put into my hands, furnished me with several particulars relating to our ancestors. When I searched the registers at Ecton, I found an account of their births, marriages and burials from the year only, there being no registers kept in that parish at any time preceding. By that register I perceived that I was the youngest son of the youngest son for five generations back. My grandfather Thomas, who was born in , lived at Ecton till he grew too old to follow business longer, when he went to live with his son John, a dyer at Banbury, in Oxfordshire, with whom my father served an apprenticeship. There my grandfather died and lies buried. We saw his gravestone in His eldest son Thomas lived in the house at Ecton, and left it with the land to his only child, a daughter, who, with her husband, one Fisher, of Wellingborough, sold it to Mr. Isted, now lord of the manor there. My grandfather had four sons that grew up, viz.: Thomas, John, Benjamin and Josiah. I will give you what account I can of them, at this distance from my papers, and if these are not lost in my absence, you will among them find many more particulars. Thomas was bred a smith under his father; but, being ingenious, and encouraged in learning as all my brothers were by an Esquire Palmer, then the principal gentleman in that parish, he qualified himself for the business of scrivener; became a considerable man in the county; was a chief mover of all public-spirited undertakings for the county or town of Northampton, and his own village, of which many instances were related of him; and much taken notice of and patronized by the then Lord Halifax. He died in , January 6, old style, just four years to a day before I was born. The account we received of his life and character from some old people at Ecton, I remember, struck you as something extraordinary, from its similarity to what you knew of mine. Benjamin was bred a silk dyer, serving an apprenticeship at London. He was an ingenious man. I remember him well, for when I was a boy he came over to my father in Boston, and lived in the house with us some years. He lived to

a great age. His grandson, Samuel Franklin, now lives in Boston. He left behind him two quarto volumes, MS. I was named after this uncle, there being a particular affection between him and my father. He was very pious, a great attender of sermons of the best preachers, which he took down in his short-hand, and had with him many volumes of them. He was also much of a politician; too much, perhaps, for his station. There fell lately into my hands, in London, a collection he had made of all the principal pamphlets, relating to public affairs, from to ; many of the volumes are wanting as appears by the numbering, but there still remain eight volumes in folio, and twenty-four in quarto and in octavo. A dealer in old books met with them, and knowing me by my sometimes buying of him, he brought them to me. It seems my uncle must have left them here, when he went to America, which was about fifty years since. There are many of his notes in the margins. This obscure family of ours was early in the Reformation, and continued Protestants through the reign of Queen Mary, when they were sometimes in danger of trouble on account of their zeal against popery. They had got an English Bible, and to conceal and secure it, it was fastened open with tapes under and within the cover of a joint-stool. When my great-great-grandfather read it to his family, he turned up the joint-stool upon his knees, turning over the leaves then under the tapes. One of the children stood at the door to give notice if he saw the apparitor coming, who was an officer of the spiritual court. In that case the stool was turned down again upon its feet, when the Bible remained concealed under it as before. This anecdote I had from my uncle Benjamin. Josiah, my father, married young, and carried his wife with three children into New England, about The conventicles having been forbidden by law, and frequently disturbed, induced some considerable men of his acquaintance to remove to that country, and he was prevailed with to accompany them thither, where they expected to enjoy their mode of religion with freedom. By the same wife he had four children more born there, and by a second wife ten more, in all seventeen; of which I remember thirteen sitting at one time at his table, who all grew up to be men and women, and married; I was the youngest son, and the youngest child but two, and was born in Boston, New England. My mother, the second wife, was Abiah Folger, daughter of Peter Folger, one of the first settlers of New England, of whom honorable mention is made by Cotton Mather in his church history of that country, entitled *Magnalia Christi Americana*, as "a godly, learned Englishman," if I remember the words rightly. I have heard that he wrote sundry small occasional pieces, but only one of them was printed, which I saw now many years since. It was written in , in the home-spun verse of that time and people, and addressed to those then concerned in the government there. It was in favor of liberty of conscience, and in behalf of the Baptists, Quakers, and other sectaries that had been under persecution, ascribing the Indian wars, and other distresses that had befallen the country, to that persecution, as so many judgments of God to punish so heinous an offense, and exhorting a repeal of those uncharitable laws. The whole appeared to me as written with a good deal of decent plainness and manly freedom. The six concluding lines I remember, though I have forgotten the two first of the stanza; but the purport of them was, that his censures proceeded from good-will, and, therefore, he would be known to be the author. My elder brothers were all put apprentices to different trades. I was put to the grammar-school at eight years of age, my father intending to devote me, as the tithing of his sons, to the service of the Church. My early readiness in learning to read which must have been very early, as I do not remember when I could not read , and the opinion of all his friends, that I should certainly make a good scholar, encouraged him in this purpose of his. My uncle Benjamin, too, approved of it, and proposed to give me all his short-hand volumes of sermons, I suppose as a stock to set up with, if I would learn his character. I continued, however, at the grammar-school not quite one year, though in that time I had risen gradually from the middle of the class of that year to be the head of it, and farther was removed into the next class above it, in order to go with that into the third at the end of the year. But my father, in the meantime, from a view of the expense of a college education, which having so large a family he could not well afford, and the mean living many so educated were afterwards able to obtain—reasons that he gave to his friends in my hearing—altered his first intention, took me from the grammar-school, and sent me to a school for writing and arithmetic, kept by a then famous man, Mr. George Brownell, very successful in his profession generally, and that by mild, encouraging methods. Under him I acquired fair writing pretty soon, but I failed in the arithmetic, and made no progress in it. At ten years old I was taken home to assist my father in his business, which was that of a tallow-chandler and sope-boiler; a

business he was not bred to, but had assumed on his arrival in New England, and on finding his dying trade would not maintain his family, being in little request. Accordingly, I was employed in cutting wick for the candles, filling the dipping mold and the molds for cast candles, attending the shop, going of errands, etc. I disliked the trade, and had a strong inclination for the sea, but my father declared against it; however, living near the water, I was much in and about it, learnt early to swim well, and to manage boats; and when in a boat or canoe with other boys, I was commonly allowed to govern, especially in any case of difficulty; and upon other occasions I was generally a leader among the boys, and sometimes led them into scrapes, of which I will mention one instance, as it shows an early projecting public spirit, though not then justly conducted. There was a salt-marsh that bounded part of the mill-pond, on the edge of which, at high water, we used to stand to fish for minnows. By much trampling, we had made it a mere quagmire. My proposal was to build a wharf there fit for us to stand upon, and I showed my comrades a large heap of stones, which were intended for a new house near the marsh, and which would very well suit our purpose. Accordingly, in the evening, when the workmen were gone, I assembled a number of my play-fellows, and working with them diligently like so many emmets, sometimes two or three to a stone, we brought them all away and built our little wharf. The next morning the workmen were surprised at missing the stones, which were found in our wharf. Inquiry was made after the removers; we were discovered and complained of; several of us were corrected by our fathers; and though I pleaded the usefulness of the work, mine convinced me that nothing was useful which was not honest. I think you may like to know something of his person and character. He had an excellent constitution of body, was of middle stature, but well set, and very strong; he was ingenious, could draw prettily, was skilled a little in music, and had a clear pleasing voice, so that when he played psalm tunes on his violin and sung withal, as he sometimes did in an evening after the business of the day was over, it was extremely agreeable to hear. In the latter, indeed, he was never employed, the numerous family he had to educate and the straightness of his circumstances keeping him close to his trade; but I remember well his being frequently visited by leading people, who consulted him for his opinion in affairs of the town or of the church he belonged to, and showed a good deal of respect for his judgment and advice: At his table he liked to have, as often as he could, some sensible friend or neighbor to converse with, and always took care to start some ingenious or useful topic for discourse, which might tend to improve the minds of his children. By this means he turned our attention to what was good, just, and prudent in the conduct of life; and little or no notice was ever taken of what related to the victuals on the table, whether it was well or ill dressed, in or out of season, of good or bad flavor, preferable or inferior to this or that other thing of the kind, so that I was brought up in such a perfect inattention to those matters as to be quite indifferent what kind of food was set before me, and so unobservant of it, that to this day if I am asked I can scarce tell a few hours after dinner what I dined upon. This has been a convenience to me in travelling, where my companions have been sometimes very unhappy for want of a suitable gratification of their more delicate, because better instructed, tastes and appetites. My mother had likewise an excellent constitution: I never knew either my father or mother to have any sickness but that of which they dyed, he at 89, and she at 85 years of age. They lie buried together at Boston, where I some years since placed a marble over their grave, with this inscription: They lived lovingly together in wedlock fifty-five years. From this instance, reader, Be encouraged to diligence in thy calling, And distrust not Providence. He was a pious and prudent man; She, a discreet and virtuous woman. Their youngest son, in final regard to their memory, Places this stone. By my rambling digressions I perceive myself to be grown old. I used to write more methodically. But one does not dress for private company as for a public ball this perhaps only negligence. But my dislike to the trade continuing, my father was under apprehensions that if he did not find one for me more agreeable, I should break away and get to sea, as his son Josiah had done, to his great vexation. He therefore sometimes took me to walk with him, and see joiners, bricklayers, turners, braziers, etc. It has ever since been a pleasure to me to see good workmen handle their tools; and it has been useful to me, having learnt so much by it as to be able to do little jobs myself in my house when a workman could not readily be got, and to construct little machines for my experiments, while the intention of making the experiment was fresh and warm in my mind. But his expectations of a fee with me displeasing my father, I was taken home again. From a child I was fond of reading, and all the little money that came into my hands

was ever laid out in books. I afterward sold them to enable me to buy R. This bookish inclination at length determined my father to make me a printer, though he had already one son James of that profession. In my brother James returned from England with a press and letters to set up his business in Boston. I liked it much better than that of my father, but still had a hankering for the sea. To prevent the apprehended effect of such an inclination, my father was impatient to have me bound to my brother. I stood out some time, but at last was persuaded, and signed the indentures when I was yet but twelve years old. In a little time I made great proficiency in the business, and became a useful hand to my brother.

Chapter 3 : Perspectives on the Constitution: A Republic, If You Can Keep It - National Constitution Center

Benjamin Franklin is best known as one of the Founding Fathers who drafted the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. "We are all born ignorant, but one must."

Explain to students that the cartoon was drawn by Benjamin Franklin in 1754. At the time, there was a superstition that a snake cut into pieces would come back to life if the pieces were joined together before sunset. In 1754, Franklin wanted the colonies to come together during the French and Indian War. His cartoon became popular again in the 1790s. What do the snake segments represent? The cartoon became popular again as the colonies united against British tyranny. Ask students to brainstorm why Franklin might have believed the snake was a good symbol for the US. If needed, define the words in bold for students. She is therefore an emblem of true courage. You may also ask: What other symbols of America can you think of? What do those symbols mean to you? Do any of these symbols show unity, like Franklin was concerned with in the Join or Die cartoon?

Activity II – 20 minutes Tell students that another way the Founders were concerned with symbols was the Presidency. The President had to be different from a King not just in practice, but in the symbols of the office. Working as a large group and using Handout B as a guide, have students brainstorm the qualities of a monarch—a King or Queen—as well as those of the President of the United States. Students should fill in the chart as the conversation goes on. As a class, go over possible responses to the questions below the chart.

Wrap-up – 10 minutes Have students use colored pencils and poster board or presentation software to create a collage that demonstrates the contributions of George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, or both, to the United States of America. The collages should illustrate the ideas and concepts that were important to Franklin and Washington—unity and democracy. **Extensions** Have students draw their own political cartoon about the United States using a symbol other than a snake, and write a one-paragraph explanation of the symbol on the back. Have students draw a scene that illustrates the difference between a King and the President of the United States. They should write a one-paragraph explanation on the back. **Join or Die Handout B:**

Chapter 4 : Quote by Benjamin Franklin: "When the people find that they can vote themselves"

Have students view the scenes from the film with the Join or Die cartoon, and/or print out Handout A: Join or Die. Explain to students that the cartoon was drawn by Benjamin Franklin in

Above all, he was an inventor, creating solutions to common problems, innovating new technology, and even making life a little more musical. Despite creating some of the most successful and popular inventions of the modern world, Franklin never patented a single one, believing that they should be shared freely: Lightning Rod Franklin is known for his experiments with electricity most notably the kite experiment , a fascination that began in earnest after he accidentally shocked himself in By , he had turned his attention to the possibility of protecting buildings and the people inside from lightning strikes. Having noticed that a sharp iron needle conducted electricity away from a charged metal sphere, he theorized that such a design could be useful: Would not these pointed rods probably draw the electrical fire silently out of a cloud before it came nigh enough to strike, and thereby secure us from that most sudden and terrible mischief! Learn more about the lightning rod. Bifocals Like most of us, Franklin found that his eyesight was getting worse as he got older, and he grew both near-sighted and far-sighted. He had the lenses from his two pairs of glasses one for reading and one for distance sliced in half horizontally and then remade into a single pair with the lens for distance at the top and the one for reading at the bottom. Swim Fins Library of Congress An avid swimmer, Franklin was just 11 years old when he invented swimming fins two oval pieces of wood that, when grasped in the hands, provided extra thrust through the water. In swimming, I pushed the edges of these forward and I struck the water with their flat surfaces as I drew them back. I remember I swam faster by means of these [palettes], but they fatigued my wrists. The Franklin stove, as it came to be called, was a metal-lined fireplace designed to stand a few inches away from the chimney. A hollow baffle at the rear let heat from the fire mix with the air more quickly, and an inverted siphon helped to extract more heat. His invention also produced less smoke than a traditional fireplace, making it that much more desirable. Urinary Catheter Library of Congress Franklin was inspired to invent a better catheter in when he saw what his kidney or bladder stone-stricken brother had to go through. Catheters at the time were simply rigid metal tubes none too pleasant. So Franklin devised a better solution: He had a silversmith make his design and he promptly mailed it off to his brother with instructions and best wishes. Armonica "Of all my inventions, the glass armonica has given me the greatest personal satisfaction. Get the full story here.

Chapter 5 : Meet Dr. Franklin

We The People: Behind the Scenes with Benjamin Franklin Transcript of Movie Thanks to Bill Robling who graciously gave his time to portray Benjamin Franklin at Independence Hall, Franklin Court, and around the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Artist and date unknown Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston on January 17, He was the tenth son of soap maker, Josiah Franklin. In all, Josiah would father 17 children. Josiah intended for Benjamin to enter into the clergy. However, Josiah could only afford to send his son to school for one year and clergymen needed years of schooling. But, as young Benjamin loved to read he had him apprenticed to his brother James, who was a printer. After helping James compose pamphlets and set type which was grueling work, year-old Benjamin would sell their products in the streets. Benjamin wanted to write for the paper too, but he knew that James would never let him. After all, Benjamin was just a lowly apprentice. So Ben began writing letters at night and signing them with the name of a fictional widow, Silence Dogood. Dogood was filled with advice and very critical of the world around her, particularly concerning the issue of how women were treated. Ben would sneak the letters under the print shop door at night so no one knew who was writing the pieces. They were a smash hit, and everyone wanted to know who was the real "Silence Dogood. And while most Bostonians agreed with the Franklins, they did not like the way James made fun of the clergy, during the debate. Ultimately, James was thrown in jail for his views, and Benjamin was left to run the paper for several issues. Upon release from jail, James was not grateful to Ben for keeping the paper going. Instead he kept harassing his younger brother and administering beatings from time to time. Ben could not take it and decided to run away in In early America, people all had to have a place in society and runaways did not fit in anywhere. Regardless Ben took a boat to New York where he hoped to find work as a printer. After debarking, he used the last of his money to buy some rolls. He was wet, disheveled, and messy when his future wife, Deborah Read, saw him on that day, October, 6, She thought him odd-looking, never dreaming that seven years later they would be married. Franklin found work as an apprentice printer. He did so well that the governor of Pennsylvania promised to set him up in business for himself if young Franklin would just go to London to buy fonts and printing equipment. Franklin did go to London, but the governor reneged on his promise and Benjamin was forced to spend several months in England doing print work. Benjamin had been living with the Read family before he left for London. Deborah Read, the very same girl who had seen young Benjamin arrive in Philadelphia, started talking marriage, with the young printer. But Ben did not think he was ready. While he was gone, she married another man. Franklin was a better printer than the man he was working for, so he borrowed some money and set himself up in the printing business. Franklin seemed to work all the time, and the citizens of Philadelphia began to notice the diligent young businessman. Soon he began getting the contract to do government jobs and started thriving in business. In , Benjamin fathered a child named William. The mother of William is not known. However, in Benjamin married his childhood sweetheart, Deborah Read. In addition to running a print shop, the Franklins also ran their own store at this time, with Deborah selling everything from soap to fabric. Ben also ran a book store. They were quite enterprising. Franklin not only printed the paper, but often contributed pieces to the paper under aliases. His newspaper soon became the most successful in the colonies. This newspaper, among other firsts, would print the first political cartoon, authored by Ben himself. During the s and s, the side of Franklin devoted to public good started to show itself. He joined the Masons. He was a very busy man socially. Almanacs of the era were printed annually, and contained things like weather reports, recipes, predictions and homilies. Franklin published his almanac under the guise of a man named Richard Saunders, a poor man who needed money to take care of his carping wife. Many of the famous phrases associated with Franklin, such as, "A penny saved is a penny earned" come from Poor Richard. The Quotable Franklin Fire Prevention Franklin continued his civic contributions during the s and s. He started agitating for environmental clean up. Among the chief accomplishments of Franklin in this era was helping to launch the Library Company in During this time books were scarce and expensive. Franklin recognized that by pooling together resources, members could afford to buy books from England. In ,

he helped to launch the American Philosophical Society, the first learned society in America. Recognizing that the city needed better help in treating the sick, Franklin brought together a group who formed the Pennsylvania Hospital in 1765. Fires were very dangerous threat to Philadelphians, so Franklin set about trying to remedy the situation. His famous saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," was actually fire-fighting advice. Those who suffered fire damage to their homes often suffered irreversible economic loss. Those with insurance policies were not wiped out financially. The Contributionship is still in business today. He also started setting up franchise printing partnerships in other cities. By 1764 he retired from business and started concentrating on science, experiments, and inventions. This was nothing new to Franklin. In 1742, he had already invented a heat-efficient stove called the Franklin stove to help warm houses efficiently. As the stove was invented to help improve society, he refused to take out a patent. His observations, including his kite experiment which verified the nature of electricity and lightning brought Franklin international fame. Franklin and his kite experiment The Political Scene Politics became more of an active interest for Franklin in the 1750s. In 1756, he went to England to represent Pennsylvania in its fight with the descendants of the Penn family over who should represent the Colony. He remained in England to 1775, as a Colonial representative not only of Pennsylvania, but of Georgia, New Jersey and Massachusetts as well. Early in his time abroad, Franklin considered himself a loyal Englishman. England had many of the amenities that America lacked. The country also had fine thinkers, theater, witty conversation things in short supply in America. He kept asking Deborah to come visit him in England. He had thoughts of staying there permanently, but she was afraid of traveling by ship. His testimony before Parliament helped persuade the members to repeal the law. He started wondering if America should break free of England. Franklin, though he had many friends in England, was growing sick of the corruption he saw all around him in politics and royal circles. Franklin, who had proposed a plan for united colonies in 1754, now would earnestly start working toward that goal. Although he pretended to take the side of the people of Massachusetts in their complaints against England, he was actually still working for the King. Franklin got a hold of some letters in which Hutchinson called for "an abridgment of what are called English Liberties" in America. He sent the letters to America where much of the population was outraged. After leaking the letters Franklin was called to Whitehall, the English Foreign Ministry, where he was condemned in public. A New Nation Franklin came home. He started working actively for Independence. He naturally thought his son William, now the Royal governor of New Jersey, would agree with his views. William remained a Loyal Englishman. This caused a rift between father and son which was never healed. Franklin was elected to the Second Continental Congress and worked on a committee of five that helped to draft the Declaration of Independence. The French loved Franklin. He was the man who had tamed lightning, the humble American who dressed like a backwoodsman but was a match for any wit in the world. He spoke French, though stutteringly. He was a favorite of the ladies. Several years earlier his wife Deborah had died, and Benjamin was now a notorious flirt. Franklin also helped secure loans and persuade the French they were doing the right thing. Franklin was on hand to sign the Treaty of Paris in 1763, after the Americans had won the Revolution. Now a man in his late seventies, Franklin returned to America. He became President of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania. He served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention and signed the Constitution. One of his last public acts was writing an anti-slavery treatise in 1789.

Chapter 6 : Remembering Benjamin Franklin years after his passing - National Constitution Center

Benjamin Franklin's Inventions Benjamin Franklin was many things in his lifetime: a printer, a postmaster, an ambassador, an author, a scientist, a Founding Father. Above all, he was an inventor, creating solutions to common problems, innovating new technology, and even making life a little more musical.

Perspectives on the Constitution: While today we marvel at the extraordinary accomplishment of our Founding Fathers, their own reaction to the US Constitution when it was presented to them for their signatures was considerably less enthusiastic. Benjamin Franklin, ever the optimist even at the age of 81, gave what was for him a remarkably restrained assessment in his final speech before the Constitutional Convention: Their over-riding concern was the tendency in nearly all parts of the young country toward disorder and disintegration. Americans had used the doctrine of popular sovereignty--"democracy"--as the rationale for their successful rebellion against English authority in 1776. But they had not yet worked out fully the question that has plagued all nations aspiring to democratic government ever since: Few believed that a new federal constitution alone would be sufficient to create a unified nation out of a collection of independent republics spread out over a vast physical space, extraordinarily diverse in their economic interests, regional loyalties, and ethnic and religious attachments. And there would be new signs of disorder after that would remind Americans what an incomplete and unstable national structure they had created: The American statesmen who succeeded those of the founding generation served their country with a self-conscious sense that the challenges of maintaining a democratic union were every bit as great after as they were before. Some aspects of their nation-building program--their continuing toleration of slavery and genocidal policies toward American Indians--are fit objects of national shame, not honor. But statesmen of succeeding generations--Lincoln foremost among them--would continue the quest for a "more perfect union. But as we look around the rest of the world in the post-Soviet era, we find ample evidence that democratic revolutions do not inevitably lead to national harmony or universal justice. We see that the expression of the "popular will" can create a cacophony of discordant voices, leaving many baffled about the true meaning of majority rule. In far too many places around the world today, the expression of the "popular will" is nothing more than the unleashing of primordial forces of tribal and religious identity which further confound the goal of building stable and consensual governments. As we look at the state of our federal union years after the Founders completed their work, there is cause for satisfaction that we have avoided many of the plagues afflicting so many other societies, but this is hardly cause for complacency. Moreover, our Constitution is a stronger, better document than it was when it initially emerged from the Philadelphia Convention. Through the amendment process in particular, through the 13th, 14th, 15th and 19th Amendments, it has become the protector of the rights of all the people, not just some of the people. On the other hand, the challenges to national unity under our Constitution are, if anything, far greater than those confronting the infant nation in 1787. Although the new nation was a pluralistic one by the standards of the 18th century, the face of America in looks very different from the original: More commonly, but in the long run perhaps just as alarming, tens of millions of Americans have been turned-off by the corrupting effects of money on the political system. Bombarded with negative advertising about their candidates, they express their feelings of alienation by staying home on election day. If there is a lesson in all of this it is that our Constitution is neither a self-actuating nor a self-correcting document. It requires the constant attention and devotion of all citizens. There is a story, often told, that upon exiting the Constitutional Convention Benjamin Franklin was approached by a group of citizens asking what sort of government the delegates had created. Richard Beeman is professor of history and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania. Beeman serves as vice chair of our Distinguished Scholars Advisory Panel.

Chapter 7 : "A Republic, if You Can Keep It"

Benjamin Franklin "When the people find that they can vote themselves money that will herald the end of the republic." When the people find that they can vote themselves money that will herald the end of the republic.

Certainly an impressive list of achievements! Franklin had the same challenge, but found that leading yourself is lot easier with the right habits and tools. The biggest lesson I learnt from the life of Benjamin Franklin is the importance working to develop daily habits and routines that make for success. Franklin developed a system that enabled him to gain many of the skills that made him successful. Excellence is not an act, but a habit. Time is Your Scarcest Resource. Whilst we all have different skills, talents and resources we all have the same 24 hours every day. What matters is how effectively we use our allocated 24 hours. Time is our scarcest resource and using it wisely requires careful consideration. Whilst recognising that time is scarce is a good start. Devising a way to effectively use our time is quite a different matter. This was something that Franklin understood deeply. So he developed a system to help him make best use of his time. Create Purposeful Habits and Routines Benjamin Franklin thought deeply about the kind of man he wanted to become. Eat not to dullness; drink not to elevation. Speak not but what may benefit others or yourself; avoid trifling conversation. Let all your things have their places; let each part of your business have its time. Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve. Make no expense but to do good to others or yourself; i. Use no hurtful deceit; think innocently and justly, and, if you speak, speak accordingly. Wrong none by doing injuries, or omitting the benefits that are your duty. Avoid extremes; forbear resenting injuries so much as you think they deserve. Tolerate no uncleanness in body, clothes, or habitation. Be not disturbed at trifles, or at accidents common or unavoidable. Imitate Jesus and Socrates. He developed a system to help him make these virtues a part of his daily life. The system consisted of a 13 week plan " supported by a scorecard and a daily schedule " to help him stay focused and on track. Like many of us Benjamin Franklin found it difficult to stay focused. To help him stay focused he developed a simple scorecard. He used the scorecard to keep his life on purpose and his days focused. The scorecard kept what was important to Franklin top of mind and helped him track his progress daily. So he decided to focus one virtue each week. He thought that if he focused on one virtue it would quickly become a habit. He then could move onto the next virtue the following week, and so on. Every evening he would review his day using a scorecard. In this way he could work on improving himself making fewer and fewer mistakes each day, becoming better and better every year. To ensure he focused on the right things at the right time he developed a detailed daily schedule. An important benefit of such a daily schedule is that it helps you decide the best times of the day for doing different kinds of tasks. This helps you can focus on doing the right things at the right time. If it was important to Benjamin Franklin he included it as part of his schedule. Notice how his schedule was well thought out and addressed all the different areas in his life, preparation, work, social, rest, meals, reading, learning and reflection. All in all a well balanced day. A reliable daily schedule and routine provides leaders with the perspective and structure needed to get the right things done at the right time. Do this for too long and soon days run into weeks, weeks into months and your failing to make any meaningful progress. To prevent this Benjamin Franklin was up every day at 5 a. By the time he started working at 8 a. A regular morning routine that helps you keep focused is essential for purposeful leadership. What you do from the time you wake you until you begin to work can make or break your day. Consider developing a morning routine that prepares you for you day. Wake up early and before you do anything else take time to plan your day. He would make notes, complete his scorecard and reflect on his progress. The focus of his reflection at the end of the day was on what good he did. This was in support of his goal to achieve moral perfection and to live as a virtuous human being. He therefore focused on what he did that day in contribution to his goal. I trust that these 5 practices from the life of Benjamin Franklin have inspired you. That they have caused you to reflect on your own personal leadership. That they have inspired you to think about developing a set of habits and routines that support your success as leader. Benjamin Franklin is an outstanding example of can be achieved when you strive live a purposeful and productive life.

Chapter 8 : George Washington and Benjamin Franklin | We the People Movie

One such trick is the "Benjamin Franklin Effect", a counterintuitive bit of advice that can make others look upon you more favorably. There is no magic formula for making people be our friend or acquaintance, but there are some pretty cool hacks out there that can help you get on better with the people.

Having heard that he had in his library a certain very scarce and curious book, I wrote a note to him, expressing my desire of perusing that book, and requesting he would do me the favour of lending it to me for a few days. When we next met in the House, he spoke to me which he had never done before, and with great civility; and he ever after manifested a readiness to serve me on all occasions, so that we became great friends, and our friendship continued to his death. After this competition was over, one-third of the students who had "won" were approached by the researcher, who asked them to return the money on the grounds that he had used his own funds to pay the winners and was running short; another third were asked by a secretary to return the money because it was from the psychology department and funds were low; another third were not approached. All three groups were then asked how much they liked the researcher. The second group liked him the least, the first group the most – suggesting that a refund request by an intermediary had decreased their liking, while a direct request had increased their liking. They had their subjects administer learning tests to accomplices pretending to be other students. The subjects were told the learners would watch as the teachers used sticks to tap out long patterns on a series of wooden cubes. The learners would then be asked to repeat the patterns. Each teacher was to try out two different methods on two different people, one at a time. In one run, the teachers would offer encouragement when the learner got the patterns correct. In the other run of the experiment, the teacher insulted and criticized the learner when they erred. Afterward, the teachers filled out a debriefing questionnaire that included questions about how attractive as a human being, not romantically and likable the learners were. Across the board, the subjects who received the insults were rated as less attractive than the ones who got encouragement. So, whenever your behavior is in conflict with your beliefs for example if you do a favor for someone you may not like very much or vice versa, when you do something bad to someone you are supposed to care about, this conflict immediately sets off alarm bells in your brain. The brain has a clever response – it goes about changing how you feel in order to reduce the conflict and turn off the alarms. Uses[edit] Some have observed that the Ben Franklin effect can be useful for improving relationships among coworkers. Instead of offering to help the potential client, a salesperson can instead ask the potential client for assistance: Such relationships, one source points out, "are defined by their fundamental imbalance of knowledge and influence. Attempting to proactively reciprocate favors with a mentor can backfire, as the role reversal and unsolicited assistance may put your mentor in an unexpected, awkward situation". Carnegie interprets the request for a favor as "a subtle but effective form of flattery". This is another way of showing admiration and respect, something the other person may not have noticed from us before. This immediately raises their opinion of us and makes them more willing to help us again both because they enjoy the admiration and have genuinely started to like us. It states that dependent, childlike behavior can induce a parent-child bond where one partner sees themselves as the caretaker. One commentator has discussed the Ben Franklin effect in connection with dog training, thinking "more about the human side of the relationship rather than about the dogs themselves. The Ben Franklin Effect suggests that how we treat our dogs during training influences how we think about them as individuals – specifically, how much we like or dislike them. When we do nice things for our dogs in the form of treats, praise, petting and play to reinforce desired behaviors, such treatment may result in our liking them more. We de-humanize them to justify the bad things we did to them. McCoy " or vendetta situations in various cultures: Seeing the casualties you create as something less than you, something deserving of damage, makes it possible to continue seeing yourself as a good and honest person, to continue being sane.

Chapter 9 : Benjamin Franklin's Inventions | The Franklin Institute

Handouts: Benjamin Franklin, The U.S. Constitution, We The People, The Constitution Today, and Categories "Benjamin Franklin and the U.S. Constitution Optional handout (Literacy Level Writing Practice): Constitution.

April 17, by Donald Applestein Esq. We remember him well—particularly in Philadelphia. There is the Ben Franklin Bridge. The world-famous Franklin Institute. The first fire department he established. The Junto Club, a book-reading group he founded in Our public library, which he founded in The American Philosophical Society, which he founded in The University of Pennsylvania, which he founded in The Pennsylvania Hospital, which he founded in How many of us are now reading through bifocal glasses? He continues to entertain and educate us with his writings and publications. He kept us warm with his stove. His findings about lightning and electricity led to lightning rods which have saved hundreds of thousands of buildings and countless lives. He enables us to swim faster with his swim fins. He helped Jefferson draft the Declaration of Independence. He represented Colonial interests in England for nearly 20 years before the Revolutionary War. He garnered French support for our Revolutionary War. And when the war was over, he helped negotiate the Treaty of Paris, which made us a truly independent nation in the eyes of the world. And he was not done. After he left Paris to return home to Philadelphia, he overcame pain and illness to guide the delegates at the Constitution Convention. Yes, we remember him well. Recent Constitution Daily Stories.