

“Benjamin Franklin” Curriculum-Based Readers Theatre Script

Developed by Ms. Young’s class with Educational Drama Specialist Mary Beth Bowen
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1 Ladies and Gentlemen.
2 we now present..
3 Interesting facts about...
ALL BENJAMIN FRANKLIN!
4 Oh yeah!
5 He’s the guy on the one-hundred
dollar bill!
6 That’s right!
7 Was he president?
ALL NO! {Gesture}
8 Then what’s he doin’ on the money?
9 Benjamin Franklin was important!
10 He helped the 13 American Colonies
11 win independence from
ALL BRITAIN. {Gesture}
12 In fact,
13 You *could* say...
14 It was Benjamin Franklin...
15 who won the American
Revolutionary War.
16 Wait a second! {Gesture}
17 Wasn’t it *George Washington*...
18 who won the American
Revolutionary War?
19 Yes, but it was Benjamin Franklin...
Boys: WHO PERSUADED FRANCE...
Girls: TO HELP PAY FOR THE WAR.
20 As the American *Ambassador* to
France...
21 Benjamin Franklin talked the French
into giving us...
1 money
2 guns
3 gunpowder
4 and French sailors and soldiers.
5 If Ben Franklin hadn’t gotten
the French to help us...
6 We could have lost the American
Revolutionary War....
7 *and*...
**ALL WE WOULDN’T BE A
COUNTRY! {Gesture}**
8 We’d be a colony.

**ALL A BRITISH COLONY. {Slurp cup
of tea}**
20 (English accent) Do you take sugar
in your your tea?
9 Ben Franklin also signed...
10 our two most important documents
**ALL THE DECLARATION OF
INDEPENDENCE {Gesture}**
11 and the...
**ALL CONSTITUTION. {Gesture &
SE}**
12 Did Ben Franklin help *write* the
Declaration of Independence?
ALL MMMM.....SORT OF {Gesture}
13 Thomas Jefferson wrote the
Declaration of Independence.
14 But *Ben Franklin* was the editor.
15 Ben was a man of many talents.
16 Besides being a great
**ALL STATESMAN {Gesture} AND
DIPLOMAT {Gesture}**
17 He was also...
A A WRITER {Gesture}
B AN INVENTOR {Gesture}
C AND A SCIENTIST {Gesture}
18 He experimented with electricity...
19 and flew his famous kite
ALL {Gesture}
20 in a thunderstorm.
ALL {Gesture & Sound Effect}
21 When the lightning...
1 traveled down the string...
2 and electrified Ben’s key...
ALL {Gesture & Sound Effect}
3 It proved Ben’s *idea*...
4 that lightning was a *form of*...
ALL ELECTRICITY {Gesture}
5 Ben Franklin was always thinking
ALL HMMMMM {Gesture}
6 about how to solve problems.
7 He’d get an idea...
ALL DING! {Gesture}

8 an idea to make everyday life easier... or more comfortable...

9 And he'd invent something.

ALL IT WORKS! {Gesture}

10 So what did he invent?

11 bifocals

ALL SEE NEAR...SEE FAR {Gesture}

12 the Franklin stove

ALL AHHH....TOASTY WARM {Gesture}

13 the lightning rod

ALL KEEPS YOUR HOUSE FROM CATCHING ON FIRE. {Gesture}

14 and wooden swim fins

ALL EHHH...THEY DIDN'T WORK SO WELL. {Gesture}

15 Besides improving people's lives...

16 with his inventions..

17 Benjamin Franklin also improved..

18 his beloved city of Philadelphia...

19 by founding...

A The first subscription library

B The first fire-fighting company.

C The first public hospital.

20 And as Philadelphia's postmaster...

21 Ben Franklin started..

1 the first home delivery of mail...

2 making the dogs of America very happy.

ALL RUFF RUFF {Gesture}

ALL ROVER, DON'T BITE THE MAILMAN! {Gesture}

3 How did Ben start out in life?

ALL VERY POOR. {Gesture}

4 The yearwas 1706.

5 Little Ben Franklin was born...

ALL WAAH! {Gesture}

6 in a crowded house in Boston.

7 He was the fifteenth...

8 of seventeen children.

9 Ben had just three years of school.

10 At age twelve...

11 He became an apprentice...

12 at his older brother's print shop.

13 Young Ben's favorite activity was to...

ALL READ BOOKS {Gesture}

14 *Reading* all those books

15 helped to make Ben...

16 a really good writer!

17 When he was sixteen..

18 he wrote his first letter-to-the-editor..

19 using the fake name of.....

ALL MRS. SILENCE DO-GOOD

20 At age 17...

21 Ben ran away from Boston

ALL MY OLDER BROTHER IS TOO BOSSY! {Gesture}

1 Ben went to Philadelphia.

2 He became a printer...

3 and soon was publishing his *own newspaper*.

4 Ben also published

5 a once-a-year booklet called...

ALL POOR RICHARD'S ALMANAC.

6 Ben wrote *all* the proverbs...including

Girls: **THREE PEOPLE CAN KEEP A SECRET...**

Boys: **IF TWO OF THEM ARE DEAD.**

Girls: **FISH.....AND VISITORS...**

Boys: **STINKAFTER THREE DAYS.**

7 and...

Girls: **DO NOT SQUANDER TIME...**

Boys: **FOR THAT'S THE STUFF...**

Girls: **LIFE ...IS MADE OF.**

8 Of all the founding fathers,

9 Ben Franklin.....

10 was the most quotable

11 the most colorful...

12 and the most clever....

13 He had lots of big ideas...

14 and he helped bring about

15 one of the biggest ideas of his time...

16 the idea of an *independent* America

17 Ben Franklin,

ALL WE SALUTE YOU! {Gesture}