



The Shocking History of Benjamin Franklin

with Steve Madewell

Podcast Link: <https://americanhistory.si.edu/sites/default/files/podcasts/franklin.mp3>

Pre-Listening Questions

- Who is Benjamin Franklin? What is he known for?
- Why would Franklin have been interested in studying science?
- What obstacles do you think a colonist faced when trying to study science?

Discussion Questions

- Should Franklin be primarily remembered as a scientist or politician?
- How did Franklin's work as a scientist influence his work as a statesman and politician?
- How do you think Franklin was able to earn the respect of the members of the Royal Society in London?

Related Resources—for continued instruction or resources for your students' research

National Museum of American History:

- Create Your Own Bubbles
<http://historyexplorer.si.edu/resource/?key=7868>
- Create Your Own Kite
<http://historyexplorer.si.edu/resource/?key=7866>
- Benjamin Franklin's Suit
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/press/releases/benjamin-franklin-suit-joins-smithsonian-collections>

Thinkfinity:

- Recreating Ben Franklin's Magical Picture: Teacher's Overview
http://www.thinkfinity.org/servlet/JiveServlet/previewBody/7530-102-1-13175/Ben_Franklin_MP_Teacher%20Resource.pdf
- Ring of Fire Experiment Instructions
<http://www.thinkfinity.org/docs/DOC-11409>

Related Standards for U.S. History (National Center for History in the Schools)

- Era 2: Colonization and Settlement (1585-1763)
 - Standard 3: How the values and institutions of European economic life took root in the colonies, and how slavery reshaped European and African life in the America
- Era 3: Colonization and Settlement (1754-1820s)
 - Standard 2: The impact of the American Revolution on politics, economy, and society

Email your question, comments, and discoveries to thinkfinity@si.edu

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Name:

Date:

Period:

Topic:

Pre-Listening vocabulary—define these words:

Static Electricity:

Royal Society:

Ambassador:

Pre-Listening (leave space after your questions to answer them as you listen):

What basic understanding questions do you have about this topic?

What thought questions do you have about this topic?

Post-Listening:

What new thought questions do you have?

Of all your thought questions, which few are especially important to the topic? Why?

Which is the most important thought question? Why?

What steps would you take to find the answer to the most important thought question?

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