



Who Was the First American?

Look around the room at the students sitting in your classroom. You are all Americans. What do you all have common that defines what it means to be an American? How would you describe an American, and has this reputation changed over time? During the birth of our nation there were many important men and women that made valuable contributions, but one man has been described as the “First American.” This man is Benjamin Franklin. What is it about Franklin that makes him stand out and does he deserve the title of “First American”? As Digital Natives and members of the Net-Generation, create a dynamic, multi-dimensional and “out-of-the box” presentation to get to the bottom of why Benjamin Franklin deserves (or does not deserve) this title. Create an online exhibit or hyperlinked presentation that depicts Benjamin Franklin’s life, his impact on our country, and whether or not he deserves his title. Presentations will be on exhibit in the school library and will become a part of the collection of digital resources.

| | Novice | Apprentice | Practitioner | Expert |
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| Factual Information | Includes accurate information about Franklin as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child • Printer/Writer • Political Thinker | Includes accurate information about Franklin as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child • Printer/Writer • Political Thinker • Scientist | Includes accurate information about Franklin as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child • Scientist • Printer/Writer • Political Thinker • Ambassador | All of practitioner plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and support what you think is Franklin’s greatest achievement |
| Presentation | Exhibit includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction supporting or disputing the “First American” title. • 1 Hyperlink to related websites | Exhibit includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction supporting or disputing the “First American” title. • 2 Hyperlinks to related websites • Image • Audio (music) | Exhibit includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes an introduction. • Multiple Hyperlinks to related websites and at least 2 authentic group documents (PPTs, Video, Podcasts, Wikis, Vodcasts, etc.) • Images • Audio (Music and Podcast) • Primary Documents | All of practitioner plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes information comparing Franklin to at least one other founding fathers studied |
| The “First American” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies if Franklin deserves the title of “First American” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies if Franklin deserves the title of “First American” • Supports opinion using one example of textual evidence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies if Franklin deserves the title of “First American” • Uses multiple examples of textual evidence to support opinion • Uses persuasive techniques to convince others of opinion | All of Practitioner plus... Includes comparisons to other founding fathers. |

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| Sources | <p>2 types of the following sources are properly cited and used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Websites ▪ Books ▪ Periodicals ▪ Video ▪ Audio Files ▪ Primary Documents Interviews | <p>3 types of the following sources are properly cited and used :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Websites ▪ Books ▪ Periodicals ▪ Video ▪ Audio Files ▪ Primary Documents ▪ Interviews | <p>At least 4 of the following sources are properly cited and used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Websites ▪ Books ▪ Periodicals ▪ Video ▪ Audio Files ▪ Primary Documents ▪ Interviews | <p>All of <i>Practitioner</i> plus includes examples and citations bibliographic information of any contradicting or incorrect information found in resources used.</p> |
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