

All About Ben Franklin Common Core Literacy Scaffolding Questions

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Note to teachers and parents: The standards listed here are taken from the Common Core Standards: *Grades 6-12, Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, & Technical Subjects* from the subset standards for grades 6-8. The standards listed here are 6-8.1-6.8-10. These Common Core Standards can be viewed in greater detail at this website:

<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RH/6-8/>

Some states have decided not to adopt the Common Core standards, but the new state standards are uniformly similar. Teachers who choose to use these questions in a state that has not adopted Common Core standards are encouraged to apply their own state standards to these questions. Teachers who choose to use these questions for grades other than 6-8 can find all of the Common Core standards at: <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/>.

Teachers, please note that these questions are designed only to provide a very basic literacy scaffold and to provide examples. There is plenty of room for you to add your creativity and use your expertise to develop “why” questions and to help students make connections to other texts.

The questions below should be answered using a complete sentence and with textual evidence from the reading. The questions for the Preface are answered as examples.

Preface

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5.

1. What was Ben Franklin’s philosophy about how to live?

Sample Answer: Ben Franklin believed that “the best way to live was not by being admired, but by being useful.”

2. Give one example of an important event that Ben Franklin was involved with.

Sample Answer: Ben Franklin was involved with electrical experiments that “challenged the accepted wisdom of the time.”

Chapter One

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5.

1. Describe one important aspect of Ben Franklin's early family life.
2. How did Ben Franklin's love of reading lead to his eventual career?
3. Describe one reason why Ben Franklin left his apprenticeship as a printer.

Chapter Two

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5.

1. Describe one difference between Philadelphia and Boston during Ben Franklin's life.
2. What stopped Ben Franklin and Deborah Read from getting married?
3. Analyze the pictures on pages 27 and 28. Of the 13 virtues, which do you think is the most important for personal success?

Chapter Three

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5.

1. Describe one aspect of the Junto society.
2. Look at the image on page 32. What can you tell about the technological state of printing during Ben Franklin's era? (No textual evidence is necessary for this answer but please make reference to the image.)
3. Describe one aspect of Ben Franklin's married life to Deborah.

Chapter Four

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5.

1. Read pp. 39-40 and the caption to the picture. What was the overall impact of Ben Franklin's library idea?
2. What was one of the accomplishments that Ben Franklin managed in his free time?
3. What was Ben Franklin's recommendation regarding women's education?

Chapter Five

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5.

1. What did a Leiden jar do?
2. What did Ben Franklin do to experiment with lightning and electricity that made him famous?
3. What practical purpose did Ben Franklin's discoveries have for people?

Chapter Six

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5.

1. Give an example of one of the new ideas that Ben Franklin had that was implemented in society.
2. What was the purpose of Ben Franklin's trip to Britain?
3. Study the images on pages 67 and 71. How was the stamp act connected to the Tea Party. (No textual evidence is necessary for this question, but please make reference to the images.)

Chapter Seven

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5.

1. What is one example of how Ben Franklin's sense of humor cheered up his fellow American Revolutionaries?
2. Why did Ben Franklin spend so much time socializing while in Paris?
3. What role did Ben Franklin play in signing the Treaty of Paris?

Chapter Eight

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5.

1. Give one example of Pennsylvania's reaction to Ben Franklin that indicates his popularity at the time.
2. Why did Ben Franklin want to be present to sign the Constitution?
3. What did Ben Franklin believe about slavery?

Text Analysis Questions

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.9, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.8.

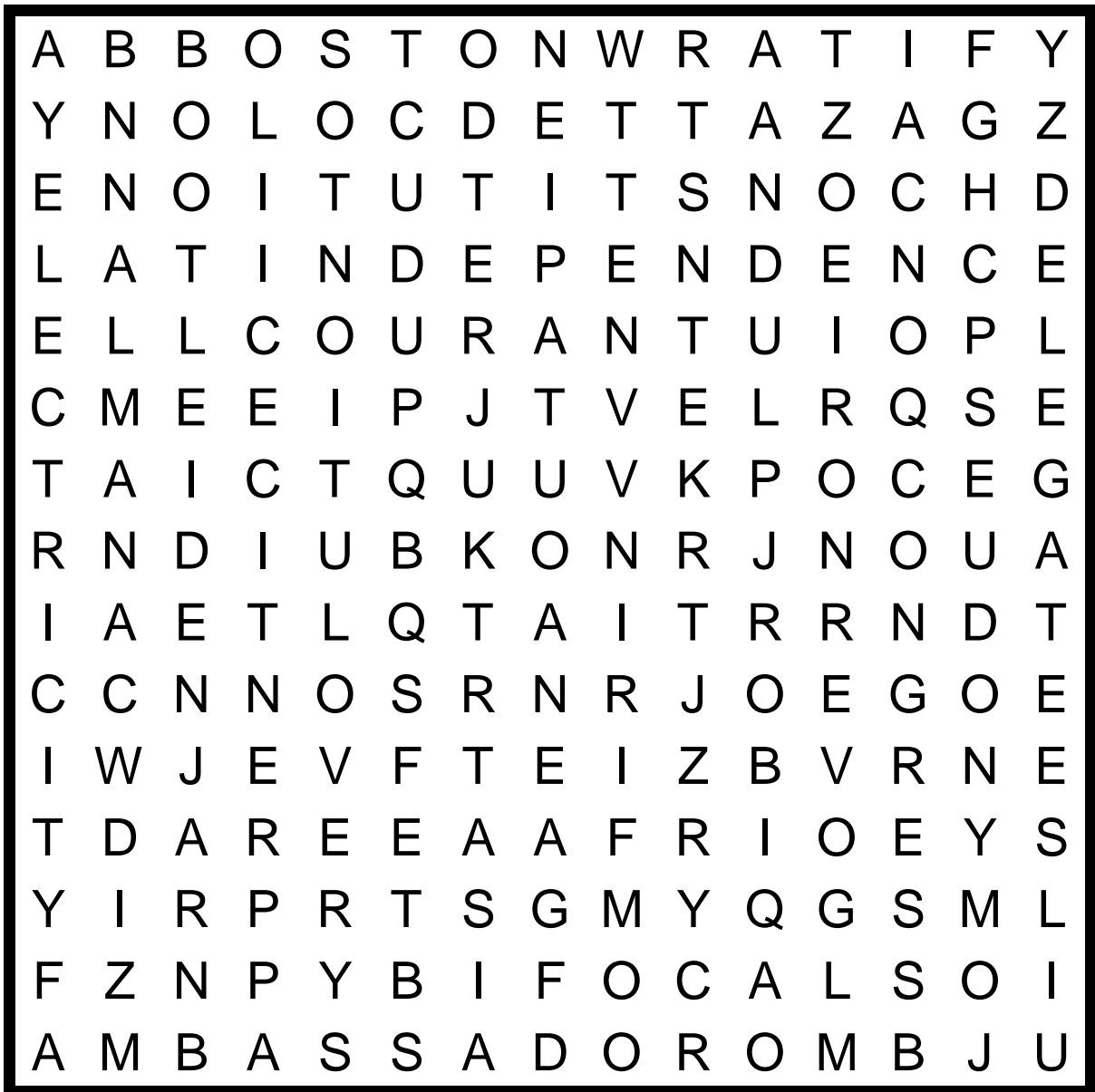
In his famous autobiography, Ben Franklin wrote the following lines about his “list of virtues” (see pp. 27-28 of *All About Benjamin Franklin*):

My list of virtues contained at first but twelve; but a Quaker friend having kindly informed me that I was generally thought proud; that my pride showed itself frequently in conversation; that I was not content with being in the right when discussing any point, but was overbearing, and rather insolent, of which he convinced me by mentioning several instances; I determined endeavoring to cure myself, if I could, of this vice or folly among the rest, and I added *Humility* to my list, giving an extensive meaning to the word.

I cannot boast much success in acquiring the *reality* of this virtue, but I had a good deal with regard to the *appearance* of it. I made it a rule to forbear all direct contradiction to the sentiments of others, and all positive assertion of my own...

Activity: Using a dictionary and thesaurus (online or print), translate this section into text that would be understandable to a second or third grader.

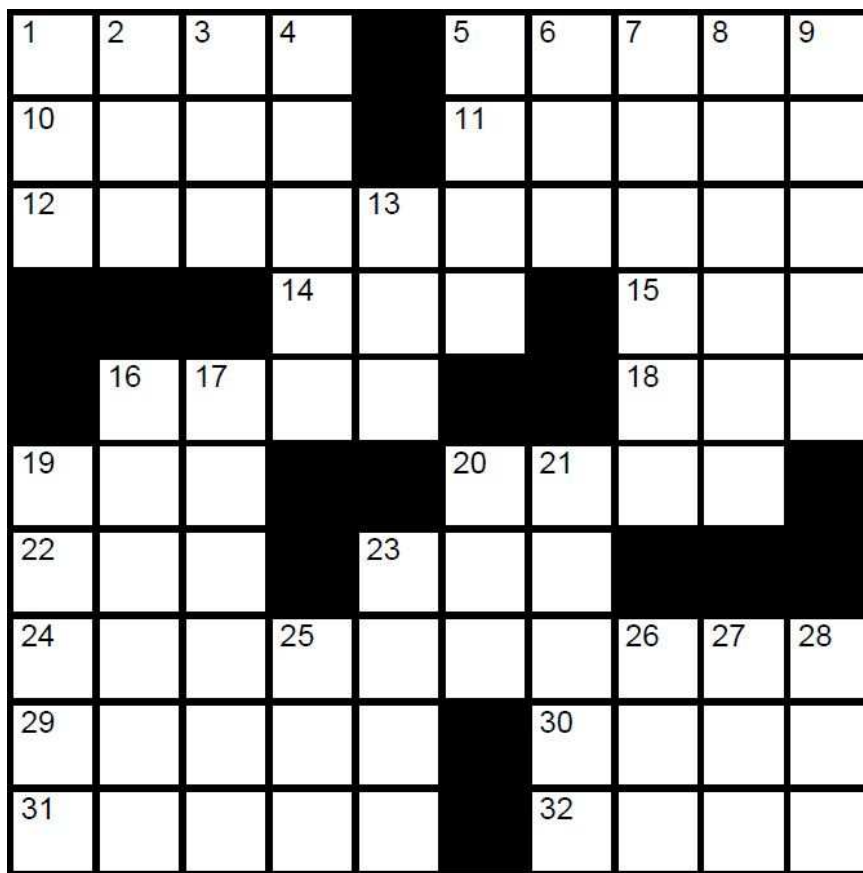
Essay Prompt: Look back into *All About Benjamin Franklin* for an example of a time when Benjamin Franklin practiced humility in his interaction with other people. Can you think of a time in your life when you might have been better off to act with humility? Compare Ben Franklin’s experience with humility with your own experience and write a paper with a clear thesis statement, evidence from this book, and an anecdote from your own life.



ALMANAC
AMBASSADOR
APPRENTICE
BEN
BIFOCALS
BOSTON
COLONY
CONGRESS

CONSTITUTION
COURANT
DELEGATE
ELECTRICITY
FRANKLIN
GAZATTE
GOVERNOR
INDEPENDENCE

JUNTO
LEIDEN JAR
PRINTER
PSEUDONYM
RATIFY
REVOLUTION
STOVE
TREATY



Across

1. Used to cool down on hot days like Independence Day
5. Deep divide in the Earth
10. Tiny quantity; part of an element
11. Unit measuring weight, smaller than a pound
12. America's war against England
14. Franklin's shirt; opposite of bottom
15. Emergency message from the Boston Harbor
16. Sharpen a knife
18. Estimated docking time for Franklin's ship (abbr.)
19. The top executive at a big company like Franklin Templeton
20. Boston's state's abbreviation
22. Summer astrological sign of people born in August
23. Place for a napkin
24. Franklin's position at his brother's print shop
29. Large fruit from Franklin's garden
30. Benjamin's bifocals helped people _____ and see
31. Says grace before a meal
32. Christmas time or _____ tide

Down

1. In the distance to Franklin, like Europe
2. He _____ an apple a day to keep the doctor away
3. Presidential election month abbreviation
4. Killed, Biblically
5. ___ d' etat (successful overthrow)
6. Makeshift home
7. Seeds used for flavoring
8. Moves along quickly
9. A club today for people as smart as Franklin
13. Parcel of land
16. Crier at Franklin's funeral
17. Celebratory commotion for Franklin's discoveries
19. Gripping gadget to help make Franklin's candles
20. Franklin was a ___ of his word
21. In a timely and appropriate way
23. Eyepiece in Franklin's bifocals
25. ___ G BIV (name to remember the colors of the rainbow)
26. Debt letters
27. *New England Courant* newspaper pages were divided into (abbr.)
28. Barely manage to support oneself

