

History Making Productions

Franklin's Spark: 1720-1765

Student Educational Materials

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Franklin's Spark: Vocabulary List

Burgeoning—growing quickly

Indentured servant—a person who agrees to work for another for a specified time, usually in return for payment of travel expenses and maintenance

Entrepreneur—a person who starts a business

Merit—the quality of being good, important, or useful

Pillory—a device used for public punishment consisting of a wooden frame with holes in which the head and hands can be locked

Stockade—an enclosure in which prisoners are kept

Scourge—a curse or menace

Offal—the organs of an animal such as liver and kidneys

Stench—very bad smell

Manifesto—a public statement of a strongly held belief

Groundswell—a fast increase in the amount of public support for something

Succumb—to stop trying to resist something

Excommunicate—to kick out of a religious community

Hardscrabble—harsh and difficult conditions due to poverty

Gentry—people of high social status

Capitulate—to surrender or give in

Militia—an informal military unit

Quell—to calm

Franklin's Spark: 1720-1765

Fill this in as you watch. Sentences in italics are direct quotations from the episode.

1. *Long before our signals crossed the oceans, there were the* _____.
2. Benjamin Franklin came to Philadelphia at age _____ as a _____ indentured servant.
3. List characteristics of Philadelphia in the 1720s:
 4. Five years after Franklin's arrival, an enslaved man given the name _____ is purchased by James Logan, the _____ of Pennsylvania.
 5. Franklin believed that merit should be more important than _____, privilege, or _____.
 6. Workers who are angry with the _____ and _____ streets set fire to the pillories and stockades.
 7. How do Franklin and other members of the Junto attempt to improve life in Philadelphia? List below:
 8. Franklin takes over the publication of the Pennsylvania Gazette, Philadelphia's largest _____.
 9. Some of the newspaper's profits come from advertisements for _____.
 10. *The economy of Philadelphia...was built and bred on the back of* _____ *men*.
 11. James Logan engineers a false land deal known as the _____.
 12. Once the Lenape are kicked off their land, Europeans come to Pennsylvania looking for religious _____ and fertile _____.
 13. Attacks on settlers by Indians eventually leads to the _____ and Indian War.

14. When the Quaker led government of Pennsylvania refused to spend money on defense, _____ forms a militia.
15. Sampson was put on trial for _____.
He is eventually banished outside of the _____.
16. Benjamin Franklin prints a manifesto against _____ written by Benjamin _____.
17. *Spurred by a groundswell of _____, Quakers succumb. Now, they will excommunicate any _____ who holds a _____.*
18. List three innovations of Franklin's:
19. When Franklin is elected to the Pennsylvania _____, he becomes a broker between the gentry and the _____.
20. What four institutions were part of Philadelphia's "boomtown" era?
21. Thanks to Franklin and others, Philadelphia becomes a well off, well organized and _____ place.
22. *But violence on the _____ threatens to _____ in the streets. Refugees pour in from _____ Canada and _____ Pennsylvania, seeking shelter. The Native Americans themselves were never _____. When they hear that _____ has capitulated and given all of their territory to the _____, they are by no means willing to abide by that.*
23. After killing a group of Indians, the "Paxton boys" march toward _____.
24. Benjamin Franklin has printed stories of describing the way that native peoples have been _____
25. They are greeted by a militia, but Franklin is able quell the _____. Franklin agrees to _____ the Paxton's demands.
26. *Franklin made Philadelphia the _____ of a modern _____ system.*
27. *This is where the entrepreneurial _____ in America really took off: the _____ identity.*

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Episode Review Sheet

I. Fill in the charts using your note-taking sheet.

Event	Causes	Results
Walking Purchase 1737		
French and Indian War		
Paxton Boys march to Philadelphia		

Characteristics of Philadelphia in 1720	Characteristics of Philadelphia in 1765

II. Much of Benjamin Franklin's influence and wealth derived from his role as a printer. What key documents did Franklin publish between 1720 and 1765? What generalization can you make about the importance of the printing press in the mid-18th century? (Answer on back)

Franklin's Spark: 1720-1765
Episode Review Sheet



PHILADELPHIA

THE GREAT EXPERIMENT

Benjamin Lay Primary Sources

Benjamin Lay was one of the earliest *abolitionists*, a person who advocated the end of slavery. Born to Quaker parents in England in 1681, he spent time in Barbados and then came to Abington, just outside of Philadelphia. Lay stood only 4 feet, 7 inches tall, had a severely hunched back, and wore a long white beard. To convince fellow Quakers that slavery was wrong, Lay tried a variety of attention-getting tactics:

- At a Quaker meeting, he stabbed a Bible in which he had hidden a bag of red liquid. The contents of the bag splashed onto the horrified onlookers as he told them that slaveholders had blood on their hands.
- He stood outside of a Quaker meeting barefoot and coatless in the snow to demonstrate the harshness of the conditions of slavery.
- He temporarily kidnapped a white child to illustrate the anguish felt by African parents who lost their children to the slave trade.

In 1737, Benjamin Franklin published a book in which Lay accuses slave holding Quakers of being *apostates*, people who have deserted their most important religious beliefs.

A. Read the introduction below and then answer the questions that follow.

ALL SLAVE-KEEPERS

That keep the Innocent in Bondage, *APOSTATES*

Pretending to lay claim to the Pure & Holy Christian Religion; of what Congregation so ever; but especially in their Ministers, by whose example the filthy Leprosy and Apostacy is spread far and near; it is a notorious Sin, which many of the true Friends of Christ, and his pure Truth, called *Quakers*, has been for many Years, and still are concerned to write and bear Testimony against; as a Practice so gross & hurtful to Religion, and destructive to government, beyond what Words can set forth, or can be declared of by Men or Angels, and yet lived in by Ministers and Magistrates in *America*.

The Leaders of the People cause them to Err.

Written for a General Service, by him that truly and sincerely desires the present and eternal Welfare and Happiness of all Mankind, all the World over, of all Colours, and Nations, as his on Soul;

BENJAMIN LAY.

Abington, Philadelphia *County*,
in Pennsylvania, the 17th, 9th. *Mo.* 1736.

1. According to Lay, who deserves the most blame for slave holding among Quakers?
2. Why do you think Lay compares slave holding to *leprosy* (an ancient, disfiguring skin disease)?
3. Why do you think Lay asserts that slavery is destructive to government?

B. Read the excerpt from Lay's book below and then answer the questions that follow.

Friends, by the tender Mercies of our God, to consider, can be greater Hypocrisy, and plainer contradiction, than for us as a People, to refuse to bear Arms, or to pay them that do, and yet purchase the Plunder, the Captives, for Slaves at a very great Price, thereby justifying their selling of them, and the War, by which they were or are obtained; nor doth this satisfy, but their Children also are kept in Slavery, *ad infinitum*; is not this plainly and substantially trampling the most Blessed and Glorious Testimony that ever was or ever will be in the World, under our Feet, and committing of Iniquity with, both Hands earnestly? Is this the way to convince the poor Slaves, or our Children, or Neighbours, or the World? Is it not the way rather to encourage and strengthen them in their Infidelity, and Atheism, and their Hellish Practice of Fighting, Murdering, killing and Robbing one another, to the end of the World.

1. Why, according to Lay, is it hypocritical for Quakers to own slaves?
2. Which aspect of slavery as practiced in North America does Lay seem to find most upsetting?
3. What kinds of behaviors does Lay believe are encouraged through slavery?

C. Quakers were not permitted to make religious statements without the prior approval of the other members of their faith. According to the notes from Quaker meetings below, what two steps were taken by Lay's fellow Quakers following the publication of his anti-slavery book?

1. John Kinsey is ordered to draw an Advertisement to be printed in the Newspapers at Philadelphia, In order to inform all whom it may concern that the Book lately published by Benjamin Lay Entitled *All SLAVE-KEEPERS That Keep the Innocent in Bondage, APOSTATES* was not published by the Approbation (*approval*) of Friends, that he is not in Unity with us, And that his Book contains false Charges as well against particular persons of our Society as against Friends in general.

2. Whereas Benjamin Lay late of this City a Person frequenting our Religious Meetings, and pretending to be of us, on his Arrival here produced a Certificate from Friends of the Monthly Meeting of Colchester, in that part of Great Britain called England, which soon after, by an Epistle from Friends of the two weeks Meeting of Colchester aforesaid and a Minuit of their Quarterly Meeting, we were Informed was Irregularly Obtained, for that the said Benjamin did not properly belong to the said Monthly Meeting, and at the Time of his Application for the Certificate aforesaid, had been under dealing for his Disorderly Conduct and had given Friends there no Satisfaction. Whereupon he was advised by Friends here to endeavour to be Reconciled to the Meeting to which he properly belonged, and thereby entitle himself to their Certificate until which they were of the Opinion he ought not to be Received as a Member of this Meeting - Yet the said Benjamin hath not only declined to do so, but in a disorderly Manner, and against the Minds of Friends, hath thaken upon himself to Preach amongst us. We have therefore thought fit to give publick Notice, that we do not Esteem the said Benjamin Lay to be a Member of our Religious Community but a disorderly & Obstinate Person, one who Slight the advice of Friends, Imposes on them in his Preaching & that he disregards the Peace of the Church.

Canasatego's Speech to the Delaware, 1742

"Cousins: Let this Belt of Wampum serve to Chastize You; You ought to be taken by the Hair of the Head and shak'd severely till you recover your Senses and become Sober; you don't know what Ground you stand on, nor what you are doing. Our Brother Onas" [Thomas Penn] Case is very just and plain, and his Intentions to preserve friendship; on the other Hand your Cause is bad, your Heart far from being upright, and you are maliciously bent to break the Chain of friendship with your Brother Onas. We have seen with our Eyes a Deed signed by nine of your Ancestors above fifty Years ago for this very Land, and a Release Sign'd not many Years since by some of your selves and Chiefs now living to the Number of 15 or Upwards. But how came you to take upon you to Sell Land at all? We Conquer'd You, we made Women of you, you know you are Women, and can no more sell Land than Women. Nor is it fit you should have the Power of Selling Lands since you would abuse it. This Land that you Claim is gone through Your Guts. You have been furnished with Cloaths and Meat and Drink by the Goods paid you for it, and now You want it again like Children as you are. But what makes you sell Land in the Dark? Did you ever tell Us that you had sold this Land? Did we ever receive any Part, even the Value of a Pipe Shank, from you for it? . . . for all these reasons we charge You to remove instantly. We don't give you the liberty to think about it. You are Women; take the Advice of a Wise Man and remove immediately. You may return to the other side of Delaware where you came from, but we don't know whether, Considering how you have demean'd your selves, you will be permitted to live there, or whether you have not swallowed that Land down your Throats, as well as the Land on this side. We, therefore, Assign you two Places to go—either to Wyoming or Shamokin. You may go either of these Place, and then we shall have you more under our Eye, and shall see how You behave. Don't deliberate, but remove away and take this Belt of Wampum."

1. What does Canasatego say should be done to the Lenape (Delaware)?
2. Why, according to Canasatego, do the Lenape lack the right to sell land?
3. What does Canasatego mean by "The Land that Claim is gone through Your Guts"?
4. Canasatego insults the Lenape by saying that they are like women and like children. How does he explain these comparisons?
5. Using similar language to that found in Canasatego's speech, write a reply that could have been given by a Lenape leader.