

Grade Level:K-5

<b>Overview</b>	<b>Students will create a timeline of various influential figures in history by using Zotero to organize the pictures and information they find.</b>
Objectives	Students will:
1.	Understand the contributions of individuals from various backgrounds who have influenced the history of the United States.
2.	Understand the characteristics of leadership.
Materials	For this lesson, you will need:
•	scissors
•	construction paper
•	old magazines
•	felt-tipped pens, colored pencils, crayons
•	butcher paper or tag board
Procedures	
1.	<p>Ask each of your students to research and write a paragraph about one of Benjamin Franklin's many accomplishments. Here are some key events and ideas that they can focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Franklin's success as a printer and author (<i>Poor Richard's Almanac</i>)</li><li>• His success as a public servant (started a fire department and a public library, reorganized the mail service, raised money to build a hospital, founded a school which later became a university)</li><li>• His role as an inventor and scientist (experiments with electricity, his invention of the lightning rod)</li><li>• His role in politics (diplomat, coauthor of the Declaration of Independence, revolutionary).</li></ul> <p>If possible, make sure that each student chooses a different aspect of Franklin's life---you may otherwise want students to work in pairs.</p>
2.	When their paragraphs are complete, ask students to create an illustration or collage depicting the events described in the paragraph they have written. These illustrations and

	collages may incorporate quotes and symbols. The students should also add the appropriate date or dates for the events or accomplishments they have written about. Students can use scissors, construction paper, old magazines, felt-tipped pens, colored pencils, and crayons to create those scenes. (Some students may want to try different artistic techniques---you can encourage their creativity!)
3.	When their paragraphs and illustrations or collages are complete, ask your students to use the tag board or butcher paper to assemble them all into a giant Benjamin Franklin timeline. You can then ask each student to read his or her paragraph aloud and invite other classes to come view the timeline.
Evaluation	You can use a simple checklist to assess your students' performance in this activity. Give the members of each group one check for each of the following aspects of their project: organization of information, clear illustrations, accuracy of information, well-written descriptions, and working together well.
Standards	<p>This lesson plan may be used to address the academic standards listed below. These standards are drawn from Content Knowledge: A Compendium of Standards and Benchmarks for K-12 Education: 2nd Edition and have been provided courtesy of the <a href="#">Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning</a> in Aurora, Colorado.</p> <p><b>*Grade level:</b>*K-2, 3-4  <b>*Subject area:</b>*history  <b>Standard:</b>  Understands the folklore and other cultural contributions from various regions of the United States and how they helped to form a national heritage.  <b>Benchmarks:</b>  Knows regional folk heroes or songs that have contributed to the development of the cultural history of the United States (e.g., Pecos Bill, Paul Bunyan, Davy Crockett, John Henry, Joe Magarac).</p> <p>Understands how regional folk heroes and other popular figures have contributed to the cultural history of the United States.  <b>*Grade level:</b>*3-5  <b>*Subject area:</b>*civics  <b>Standard:</b>  Understands the importance of Americans sharing and supporting certain values, beliefs, and principles of American constitutional democracy.  <b>Benchmarks:</b>  Knows how various American holidays reflect the shared values, principles, and beliefs of Americans (e.g., Fourth of July, Labor Day, Memorial Day, Presidents' Day, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving, Veterans Day, Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday)  <b>*Grade level:</b>*5-6  <b>*Subject area:</b>*U.S. history  <b>Standard:</b>  Understands how political, religious, and social institutions emerged in the English colonies.  <b>Benchmarks:</b>  Understands the influence of Enlightenment ideas on American society (e.g., Benjamin Franklin's experiment with electricity).</p>

