



Teacher's Guide

Philadelphia & the Founding Fathers **Drive Thru History/American History**

Grade Levels:

7-12

Subject Areas:

United States History

Synopsis:

Dave tours historic locations in Philadelphia recalling battles of the American Revolution and the lives of the Founding Fathers who attended the Constitutional Conventions held there. He spends some time at Franklin House where he reviews the biography of the great statesmen and inventor. Locations, such as the American Philosophical Society, Declaration House, and Carpenter's Hall bring to mind the writing of the Declaration of Independence and the American Constitution, documents whose common sense approach to freedom and liberty is extolled throughout the episode. Dave also recalls the history of the Liberty Bell, the design of the Great Seal, and the establishment of the American bald eagle as a symbol of the United States and its freedoms.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

- Explain why Benjamin Franklin is such a revered historical figure
- Interpret engravings on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Liberty Bell
- Understand that the Founding Fathers were well-educated spokesmen for the rights of the individual
- Appreciate the need for all citizens to defend the liberties defined in the Declaration of Independence

Vocabulary:

pragmatism, prodigious, aphorisms

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

What makes Philadelphia so dear to all students of American history?

What historical sites would you visit if you could travel to Philadelphia?

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Which unique American food is a tasty treat associated with Philadelphia?

How would you describe the architecture that is typical of historical Philadelphia?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

How did Benjamin Franklin instill a sense of civic duty in the general public? How did he demonstrate his own sense of civic duty in the way he represented the United States at home and abroad?

Why do so many people from all over the world visit the Liberty Bell each year? What does the bell symbolize to tourists and Americans alike? What is the history of the Liberty Bell that is currently on display in Philadelphia?

Who were some of the renowned philosophers and statesmen who spoke at the American Philosophical Society? How did this society influence European views of America and Americans?

Why was Franklin against using the bald eagle as a symbol of America?

Further Activities:

Further investigate Franklin's inventions and how they are being used or modified today.

Find out why Benjamin Franklin was so popular in Europe and how he was able to convince influential people that the United States was a solid Republic.

Learn more about the popular tours that are available in Philadelphia. When you are finished, decide which tour you would most like to try and why it seems to be the best tour available.

Discover more on the Georgian style of architecture as exemplified in Philadelphia's historic buildings.

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