

Computer Capers

January 2008

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Biography of Ben

Celebrate Benjamin Franklin's birthday this January 17th by creating a slideshow about his life. Begin by doing some research online or check out a few books at the library. Can you find out:

- *How old would he have been?
- *What were his growing up years like?
- *What did he invent?
- *Did he have any political accomplishments?
- *What were some of his different jobs?

Can you explain a few of his aphorisms (useful sayings)? What about his life are you most thankful for or influenced by? Finally, take the information that you learned and make a slide on each topic with your home computer. Find and add appropriate images to the slides as well. Once your slideshow is complete, preview it and practice delivering it to your home or school audience. You might even want to dress up as Benjamin Franklin for added fun and drama!

Indiana Social Studies Standard 5.1.21 Formulate historical questions from encounters with primary sources and identify and describe the contributions of important early American artists and writers and traditional arts and crafts to the new nation's cultural landscape. (Individuals, Society, and Culture) Indiana Language Arts Standard 5.5.3 Write or deliver a research report that has been developed using a systematic research process (defines the topic, gathers information, determines credibility, reports findings)

"I Have a Dream..."

Celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by reading his famous "I Have A Dream" speech and then writing and delivering one of your own. What dream do you have for the future of our country? What were some of the obstacles that Rev. King faced and had to overcome? Do you face any obstacles to realizing your dream? How do you plan to overcome them? Use a word processor to compose your speech. Organize your speech by including an introduction; transitions, previews, and summaries; a logically developed body; and an effective conclusion.

Indiana Social Studies Standard 8.6 Discuss the impact of leaders of different social movements. (History) Indiana Language Arts Standard 8.7.11 Deliver oral responses to literature that: • interpret a reading and provide insight. • connect personal responses to the writer's techniques and to specific textual references. • make supported inferences about the effects of a literary work on its audience. • support judgments through references to the text, other works, other authors, or personal knowledge.



"Crazy 8" Snowman Family

Celebrate the year 2008 by creating a drawing that starts with a computer generated number 8. Begin in a word processor. Set up your page so the orientation is "Landscape". Now type in the number 8 as many times as there are people in your family. Center all of them on the page. Now begin with the first "8" and format it with a large size font (in the 300 range) as well as a new style font. This will represent the tallest person in the family. Move on to each additional "8" and format each one to represent the size and style of the person. Once all of your "8's" are formatted for each person, print out your page.



Now allow each person in your family to add his/her own face, hat, scarf, accessories etc. to the snowman that represents them using pencil, pen, crayon, or marker. These added details should help describe their individual characteristics and personalities. Once your drawing is complete discuss your creative "Crazy 8 Snowman Family" piece of art. How are the snowmen alike? How are they different? What characteristics of your drawing help you to know who is who? If you gave the drawing to someone outside of your family would they be able to identify each member of the family from the drawings? Why or why not?

Finish up this project by writing a sentence about each of the snowman and who it represents using descriptive words. Will this help a person who is not familiar with your family know who each person is?

Indiana Language Arts Standard 2.7.12 Use descriptive words when speaking about people, places, things, and events. 2.5.5 Use descriptive words when writing. 2.7.14 Provide descriptions with careful attention to sensory detail.