

Extension Activities

The Absent Architect

Benjamin Franklin was in Europe when his new home was being built on Market Street. He sent detailed plans for the construction of the building via letters to his wife, Deborah.

Ask students to design a modern home that would be suitable for Franklin to live in today. Tell them to consider his many hobbies, his career, his family, and his lifestyle.

Plan to visit Franklin Court in Philadelphia (between 3rd and 4th Streets). There, the students will see the remains of the actual construction, and the "steel ghost structure" of Franklin's home. The underground museum at this site offers a glimpse of Franklin's life.

Aphorisms Updated

Benjamin Franklin said, "Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise."

Today, one might have a different view of this old expression. It might be said, "Early to bed and early to rise makes you health conscious and will help your financial situation."

Provide students with a list of Franklin's aphorisms, or use the one provided, and ask them to put Franklin's aphorisms in the students' own words.

Invention Extension

Challenge students to build the inventions that they sketched as part of this study. Inventions may be displayed at an "Invention Convention" or school fair.