



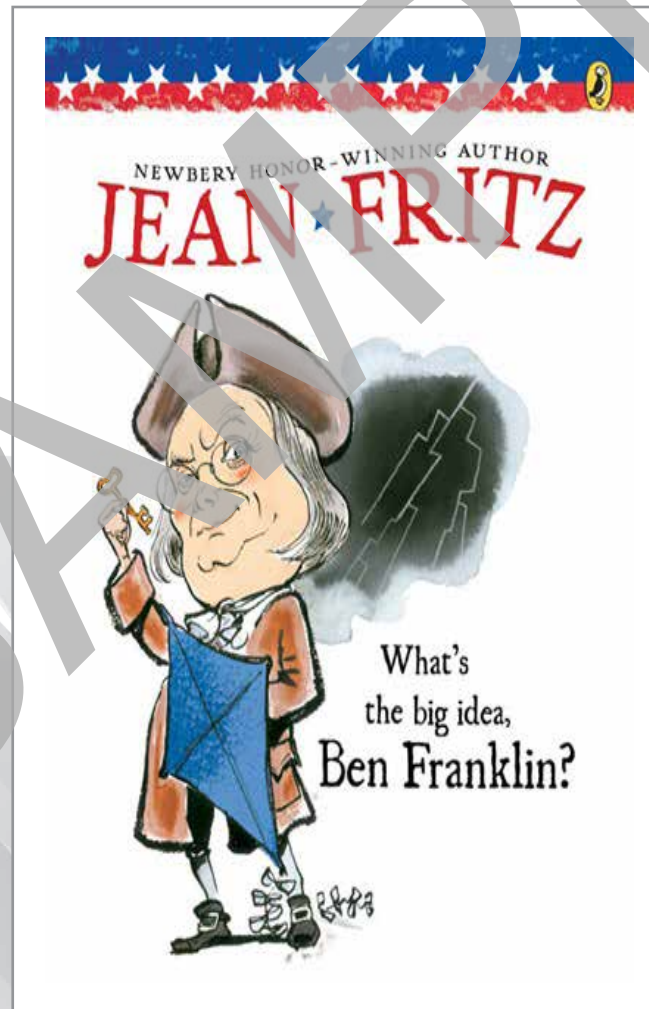
TEACHER GUIDE

GRADES 3-5

COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM BASED LESSON PLANS

What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?

Jean Fritz



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?

Jean Fritz

TEACHER GUIDE

NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

ISBN 978-1-50204-313-9

Copyright infringement is a violation of Federal Law.

© 2020 by Novel Units, Inc., St. Louis, MO. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, translated, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any way or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without prior written permission from Novel Units, Inc.

Reproduction of any part of this publication for an entire school or for a school system, by for-profit institutions and tutoring centers, or for commercial sale is strictly prohibited.

Novel Units is a registered trademark of Conn Education.

Printed in the United States of America.

To order, contact your
local school supply store, or:

Toll-Free Fax: 877.716.7272

Phone: 888.650.4224

3901 Union Blvd., Suite 155

St. Louis, MO 63115

sales@novelunits.com

novelunits.com

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Summary.....	3
Initiating Activities.....	3
Five sections.....	12
Each section contains: Vocabulary, Discussion Questions, and Supplementary Activities	
Culminating Activities	19
Journal Prompts.....	19
Vocabulary Activities.....	19
Assessment.....	26

Skills and Strategies

Thinking

Brainstorming, research,
visualizing

Comprehension

Predicting, comparison/
contrast

Writing

Poetry, journal, revision

Vocabulary

Synonyms, classifying

Listening/Speaking

Discussion

Literary Elements

Story elements, biography,
genre, characterization

Introduction

The Novel Units Teacher Guides for four Jean Fritz books can be used individually or combined for an author unit. Use a different guide to answer each of Jean Fritz's four lively questions: *Where was Patrick Henry On the 29th of May?*, *What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?*, *Who's Stepping on Plymouth Rock?*, and *Can't You Make Them Behave, King George?* The familiar names and places in these intriguing titles suggest the historical themes. In each of these four novels, Jean Fritz takes historical facts and adds details to create an interesting protagonist with whom students can easily identify. (See page 5 of this guide for ideas for a Jean Fritz unit.)

Summary

Ben Franklin was born in Boston. After one year at the Latin School and two years in a writing and arithmetic school, he was apprenticed as a tradesman. He went on to explore his many ideas and to play an important part in the early formation of the United States government.

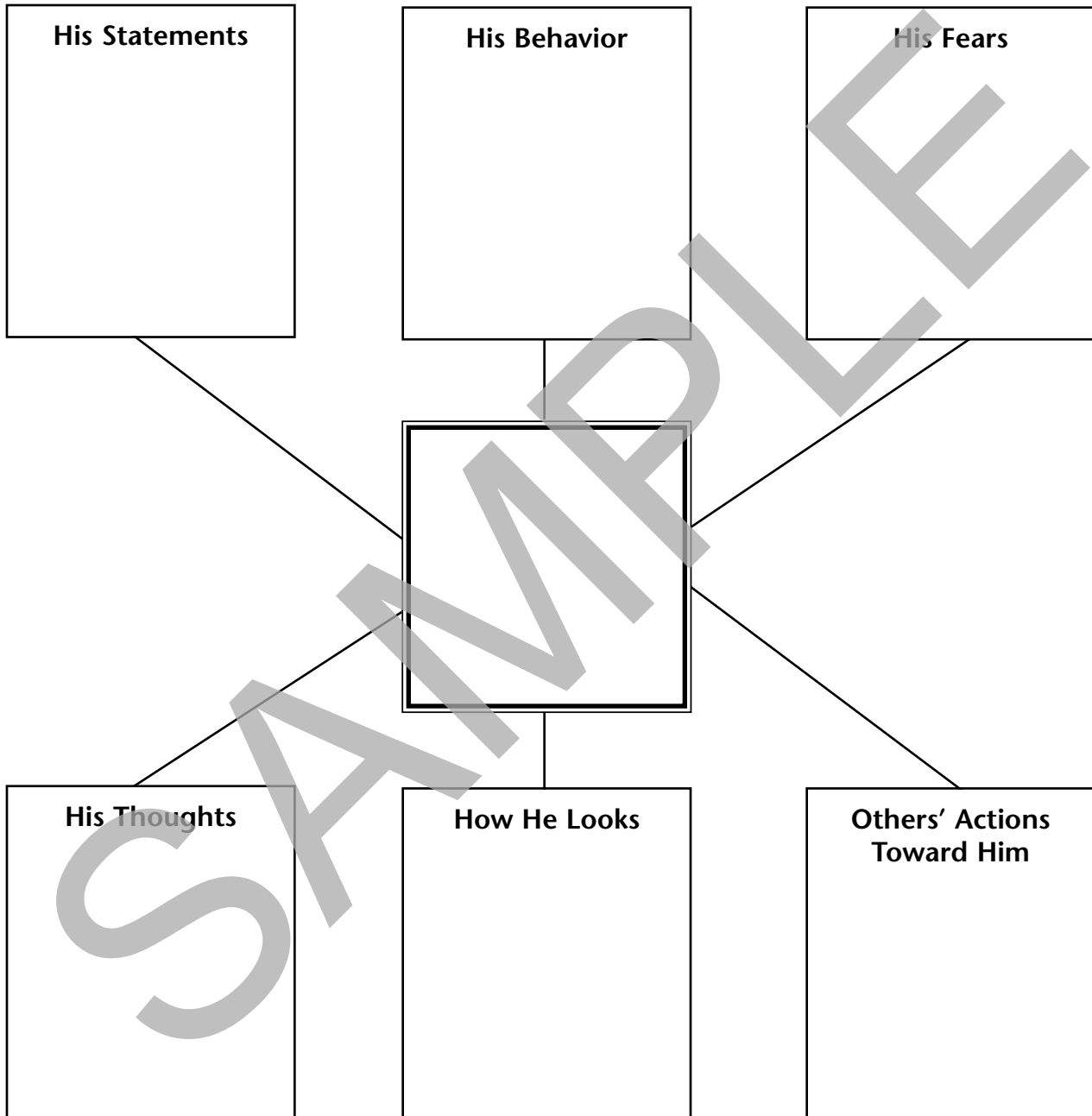
Initiating Activities

1. Use the K-W-L approach with students to show:

What I KNOW About Ben Franklin	What I WANT to Find Out	What I LEARNED

Attribute Web

Directions: Within each box, record evidence about the character.



-
6. How was Franklin honored for proving his Big Idea? (*Page 36, The Royal Society of England presented him with a medal, universities gave him medals and called him Dr. Franklin, and newspapers praised him.*) How are important scientists praised today?

Supplementary Activities

1. Act out a meeting of the Leather Apron Club.
2. Investigate almanacs, then create a class almanac. Remember that *Poor Richard's Almanack* included many short one-line sayings. Sometimes these were quick how-to hints on everyday living. Most famous is "A penny saved is a penny earned." Sometimes these were just humorous comments. Almanacs also included holidays, weather forecasts, schedules of tides, time of sun coming up and going down, when the moon is full, and when to plant what. Benjamin's almanac, however, was humorous. Your almanac could be a class or school almanac.
3. Do a character attribute web. Put Benjamin Franklin in the middle. List attributes webbing from the center. Ask, "What was Benjamin Franklin like?" This could be done as a comparison, using Ben as a child and Ben as an adult. (See examples on the next two pages and pages 9-11 of this guide.)

Pages 38-47 (See notes for pages 42 and 46 at the end of the book.)

Vocabulary

expedition 38	spectacles 39	backscratcher 39	repeal 40
condemned 40	undeniable 42	self-evident 42	boils 43
gout 43	sensation 44		

Discussion Questions

1. Why was Benjamin sent to London? (*Page 38, He was so good at talking people into doing what he wanted them to do.*) His mission was to "further the interests of the people of Pennsylvania." Why Pennsylvania? (*It was 1757. The U. S. was a collection of colonies.*)
2. What was Benjamin's life like in London? How was it different from his life in America? (*Page 39, He began to live in style and comfort. He rented a room from a woman who treated him like a king.*) How long was he there? (*Page 40, 18 years*)
3. Why did Benjamin become angry with England? (*Page 40, England began laying down taxes and making trouble for America. England treated the American colonies the same as Franklin was treated as an apprentice.*)
4. Why was Benjamin sent to France? (*Page 42, He was sent to France to talk the French into entering the war on America's side.*) Did he succeed? (*Page 45, yes*)
5. What did Benjamin have to do with the Constitution? (*Page 46, He helped write it.*)

Describe a Leader

Directions: Imagine that you could create a perfect leader. Describe your idea of a perfect leader in the spaces provided.

Acts

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Feels

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Leader

Looks

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Says

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____