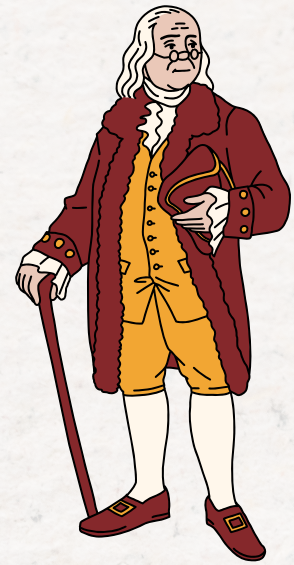




Order



**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S VIRTUES**

THE  
*Pursuit of  
Happiness*

**K-12 CHARACTER EDUCATION**

# resource information

The 1975 Code of Alabama mandates that ten minutes per day of character education are required for all k-12 students. The 1995 Accountability Law mandates character education.

The Founding Fathers believed that a healthy government starts with healthy leaders who address their own flaws so that everyone can be a healthy citizen. With that idea in mind, this resource was created to address twelve of Benjamin Franklin's Necessary Virtues.

Each lesson may not be contained to a ten minute limit, but can be modified to fit the needs of your classroom. Each lesson also contains a primary source such as Benjamin Franklin's daily schedule in the Order lesson, which may help address some state standards that focus on the usage of primary sources.



# background information

# ORDER

Benjamin Franklin said, "Let all your things have their places; let each part of your business have its time." Having his priorities in order helped him to be able to see what was necessary each day. The purpose was to eliminate distractions in order to be as efficient as possible.

Dr. Franklin followed this schedule on a day to day basis:

The morning question, What good shall I do this day?	5	Rise, wash, and address <i>Powerful Goodness</i> ; contrive day's business and take the resolution of the day; prosecute the present study; and breakfast.	
	6		
	7		
	8		
	9	Work.	
	10		
	11		
	12	Read or overlook my accounts, and dine.	
	1		
	Evening question, What good have I done today?	2	Work.
		3	
		4	
5			
6		Put things in their places, supper, music, or diversion, or conversation; examination of the day.	
7			
8			
9			
10		Sleep.	
11			
12			
1			
	2		
	3		
	4		

# LESSON PLAN 1: ORDER

- Engage:
  - Provide students with a planning chart, sticky note, etc. and have them write down three things they think they have to do everyday.
- Explore:
  - Have a class discussion on what everyone has written down and see what they have in common.
- Explain:
  - Choose a read aloud based on the idea of order.
    - Suggested Titles:
      - *The Magical Yet* - Angela DiTerlizzi
      - *Salt in his Shoes* - Delores Jordan
      - *Rosie Revere, Engineer* - Andrea Beaty
      - *A Little Spot of Organization* - Diane Alber
      - *Too Many Carrots* - Katy Hudson
      - *Even Superheroes have to Sleep* - Sara Crow
  - Discuss with students the idea of putting the most important things first in their days.
- Elaborate:
  - Have students list out everything they do everyday.
    - This can be done in whole group, small groups, or individually.
  - Providing them with Benjamin Franklin's daily schedule, have students write out their own schedule filled with the daily must dos.
    - Worksheet provided.
  - Discuss how putting your priorities in order can help you to have a successful day!
- Evaluate:
  - Look at their schedules and get to know your students more!



# ORDER - \_\_\_\_\_'S VERSION

## **Benjamin Franklin's Schedule**

- Morning (5a-8a)
  - "Rise, wash, and address Powerful Goodness! Contrive the days business, and take the resolution of the day; prosecute the present study, and breakfast."
  
- Work (8a-12p)
  
- Noon (12p-2p)
  - "Read, or look over my accounts, and dine."
  
- Work (2p-6p)
  
- Evening (6p-10p)
  - "Put things in their places. Supper. Music, or diversion, or conversation. Examination of the day."
  
- Sleep (10p-5a)

What did Benjamin Franklin do from 5:00 A.M. to 8:00 A.M.?

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What did Benjamin Franklin do from 6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.?

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Why do you think Dr. Franklin order his day like this?

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## YOUR TURN: WHAT WOULD YOUR DAILY SCHEDULE LOOK LIKE?

**TIMES**

**WHAT ARE YOU DOING?**

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**REMEMBER TO YOUR DAY IS FOCUSING ON WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT!**

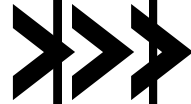
# LESSON PLAN 2: ORDER

- Engage:
  - Give each student a flow chart (provided) and have them only fill out the left side with their top 3 distractions.
- Explore:
  - Have a class discussion on what everyone has written down and see what they have in common.
  - Discuss potential consequences for distractions.
    - Example: Distracted Driving, Distracted Spending, etc.
- Explain:
  - Choose a read aloud based on the idea of order.
    - Suggested Titles:
      - **3rd-5th:**
        - *Jabari Jumps* - Gaia Cornwell
        - *Jeremiah Learns to Read*- Jo Bogart
        - *After the Fall*- Dan Santat
        - *The Girl Who Could Fix Anything: Beatrice Shilling, World War II Engineer* - Mara Rockliff
      - **5th-8th**
        - *The Three Questions: Based on a Story by Leo Tolstoy* - Jon J. Muth
        - *Salt in His Shoes* - Deloris Jordon
        - *Ruby's Wish* - Shirin Yim Bridges
        - *Thank you, Mr. Falker* - Patrica Polacco
    - Discuss with students the idea of setting goals and eliminating distractions to meet those goals.
- Elaborate:
  - On the right side of their page, have students work in a small group or with a partner to come up with a potential consequence of the distraction and how to eliminate the distraction.
- Evaluate:
  - Have students complete the provided goal setting sheet.

# REMOVING DISTRACTIONS

◆◆◆◆◆  
**MY #1 BIGGEST DISTRACTION**

**CONSEQUENCE?**



**ELIMINATION STRATEGY**

**MY #2 BIGGEST DISTRACTION**

**CONSEQUENCE?**



**ELIMINATION STRATEGY**

**MY #3 BIGGEST DISTRACTION**

**CONSEQUENCE?**



**ELIMINATION STRATEGY**  
◆◆◆◆◆



# SETTING GOALS



**MY VISION: WHAT DO I WANT?**

**ARE THERE ANY DISTRACTIONS IN THE WAY OF ME MEETING MY GOAL?**

**MY PLAN: WHAT'S THE OVERALL PLAN?**

**HOW CAN I ELIMINATE THESE DISTRACTIONS?**

**MY TASKS: WHAT SMALL ACTIONS WILL HELP ME MEET THIS GOAL?**

**I'LL KNOW I MET MY GOAL WHEN.....**



# LESSON PLAN 3: ORDER

Benjamin Franklin felt that daily self-examination was needed in order to have a “pursuit of happiness” in your life. Franklin kept track of his progress daily and charted it.

Thomas Jefferson had a list as well that he worked on throughout his life. What the Founders meant by “pursuit of happiness” was not to do whatever makes you happy like many think today, or to own property. Their overall concept was more about being good than feeling good, attempting to arrive at a type of happiness through daily tasks of self-discipline and order. This was a lifelong quest for them to do their best to achieve daily “happiness” They (or you and I) would never perfect it and that frustrated Franklin, Jefferson, and others who tried to pursue it, but could never fully obtain it!

They felt we needed to strengthen our intellect (reason) so we can moderate our will and emotions, which leads to happiness (pursuit of happiness)! By governing ourselves and our emotions/desires, we would be able to govern a nation!

Instructions: Below are Benjamin Franklin’s Virtues (some edits have been made!) Franklin would work on one of these a week and keep track every day of how he did, marking the results in a journal. Please take a week yourself and pick 2 of these you want to focus on bettering yourself in. After a week, please turn in your results to your teacher and answer the following questions. (Student version of questions is provided.)

1. How did you do? Why did you pick the virtues you did?
2. Do you agree with the Founders that we are more happy by pursuing order in these areas? Why or why not?
3. As a nation today, do we “strengthen our reason” to better “govern our emotions”? Explain.
4. Does your answer to number 4 make us a stronger or weaker nation today? Explain.
5. Restate in your own words, what the Founders meant by “pursuit of happiness.”

*Form of the pages.*

TEMPERANCE.

Eat not to dullness ; drink not to elevation.

	Sun.	M.	T.	W.	Th.	F.	S.
Tem.							
Sil.	*	*		*		*	
Ord.	*	*			*	*	*
Res.		*				*	
Fru.		*				*	
Ind.			*				
Sinc.							
Jus.							
Mod.							
Clea.							
Tran.							
Chas.							
Hum.							

**Benjamin Franklin's Chart of 13 Virtues**

VIRTUE	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
<b>Temperance.</b> Eat not to dullness. Drink not to elevation.							
<b>Silence.</b> Speak not but what may benefit others or your self. Avoiding trifling conversation.							
<b>Order.</b> Let all your things have their places. Let each part of your business have its time.							
<b>Resolution.</b> Resolve to perform what you ought. Perform without fail what you resolve.							
<b>Frugality.</b> Make no expense but to do good to others or your self. Waste nothing.							
<b>Industry.</b> Lose no time. Be always employ'd in something useful. Cut off all unnecessary actions.							
<b>Sincerity.</b> Use no hurtful deceit. Think innocently and justly. Speak accordingly.							
<b>Justice.</b> Wrong none by doing injuries, or omitting the benefits that are your duty.							
<b>Moderation.</b> Avoid extremes. Forbear resenting injuries so much as you think they deserve.							
<b>Cleanliness.</b> Tolerate no uncleanness in body, clothes, or habitation.							
<b>Tranquility.</b> Be not disturbed at trifles, or at accidents common or unavoidable.							
<b>Chastity.</b> Rarely use venery but for health or offspring; never to dullness, weakness, or the injury of your own or another's peace or reputation.							
<b>Humility.</b> Imitate Jesus and Socrates.							

Instructions: Each evening, review your day and give yourself a mark if you transgressed the virtue. Courtesy of: [www.HomeschoolPatriot.com](http://www.HomeschoolPatriot.com) based upon the virtue charts used by Benjamin Franklin.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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1. How did you do? Why did you pick the virtues you did?

2. Do you agree with the Founders that we are more happy by pursuing order in these areas? Why or why not?

3. As a nation today, do we "strengthen our reason" to better "govern our emotions"? Explain.

4. Does your answer to number 4 make us a stronger or weaker nation today? Explain.

5. Restate in your own words, what the Founders meant by "pursuit of happiness."

### **Franklin's 13 Virtues**

*This is his list of virtues and their meanings. The original language has been edited.*

1. Temperance: Eat not to dullness.... (Don't overeat!)

2. Silence: Speak not but what may benefit others or yourself...(talk only when necessary! Know when to be quiet)

3. Order: Let all your things have their places. Let each part of your business have its time (impulse control).

4. Resolution: Resolve to perform what you ought. (Do what you say you will do!)

5. Frugality: Make no expense but to do good to others or yourself.... waste nothing.

6. Industry: Lose no time. Be always employed in something useful. Cut off all unnecessary actions.

7. Sincerity: Use no hurtful deceit. (Be nice and kind!) Think innocently and justly; and, if you speak, speak accordingly.

8. Justice: Wrong none, by doing injuries or omitting the benefits that are your duty.

9. Moderation: Avoid extremes....

10. Cleanliness: (be as clean as you can be)

11. Tranquility: Be not disturbed at trifles, or at accidents common or unavoidable.

12. Chastity: Dress and act modestly

13. Humility: Imitate Jesus and Socrates. (Be humble!)