

Literature and Composition

**Units 15 – 18: Note Taking**  
***The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin***

by Benjamin Franklin

Literature for Units 15 - 18

<http://www.ushistory.org/franklin/autobiography/index.htm>

Unit vocabulary, questions, and activities are based on the Glencoe Teacher Guide.

In Units 15-18, we will work on vocabulary and answering discussion questions. Each unit will contain a list of vocabulary words, a list of discussion questions, and an activity to complete as you read a portion of Benjamin Franklin's autobiography. An autobiography is an account of the events in a person's life written by that person.

**Unit 15 – Assignments**

**Literature and Composition**

- Read the Assignment Background below.
- Create a chart to track the events of Benjamin Franklin's childhood.
- Read the first half of part one, pages 1-17 of *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*.

**Activities While Reading:**

Track the events of Benjamin Franklin's childhood.

Answer the Discussion Questions below in your reading journal. Be sure to use complete sentences and check for correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

Define the Vocabulary Words listed below in your journal.

• **Discussion Questions:**

1. What was Benjamin Franklin interested in? Were these the same things his father wanted him to learn?
2. Why did Franklin go to Philadelphia?
3. What happened when Franklin went to England?
4. After reading about Franklin's childhood, what qualities of his do you admire? Why do you admire these qualities? Are these Biblical qualities?

• **Vocabulary Words:**

accost  
affable  
approbation

felicity  
fractious  
frugality

impropriety  
inducements  
providence

## Unit 15 – Assignment Background

### Quakers

Matthew 28:20 “And, lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world. Amen.” It was this passage which led George Fox, the founder of the Quakers, to believe that Christ is still among us, speaking to, guiding, and empowering those who follow Him. Fox also believed that a true Christian is evident through a changed life, rather than through association with a church. This transformation from a life of death to one of life in Christ is what marks a Christian. Fox also believed that church is not merely a building; instead, he believed that Christians in community with others who have experienced this changed life and who continue to keep a relationship with the living Christ are what forms a church. He believed that a minister (who was called by

Christ) was called to lead people by living the Word of Christ. The central belief for George Fox was that believers could not be restricted by rules or rituals set by churches, but that believers simply needed to learn and follow the teachings of Christ and to listen for Him in their lives.

This belief led Fox to seek out others in England who felt the same way he did. He called this new group Friends, based on John 15:15, when Jesus refers to his disciples as “friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.” Others in England were not as accepting of this new group of believers and referred to them as “Quakers,” citing the quaking the members of the group experienced when feeling the power of the Lord.

## Unit 16 – Assignments

### Literature and Composition

- Read the Assignment Background below.
- Make a chart in which you will list the events from this section of Franklin’s story. Include two columns: one for the event, and another for listing a reason for the event.
- Read the second half of part one, pages 18-34 of *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*.

### Activities While Reading:

Track the events during this section of the reading using the chart you created in Unit 15.

Answer the Discussion Questions below in your reading journal. Be sure to use complete sentences and check for correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

Define the Vocabulary Words listed below.

### • Discussion Questions:

1. How does Benjamin Franklin compare himself to other workers at the printing house?
2. Why do Franklin and Meredith become partners?
3. Why did Franklin create the Junto club?
4. How do you know Benjamin Franklin is a practical person?

### • Vocabulary Words:

factotum  
pacific  
traduce

pleurisy  
sagacious  
sanguine

sensible

## Unit 16 – Assignment Background

### Printing

Papermakers found that raw material to make paper was in short supply. Therefore, they would use old, rotten rags of cloth to supply the needed fibers that were pressed into sheets of paper. In addition to few supplies for paper, printers also found little metal available in order to start their printing shops. A colonial printer would have to make an overseas trip in order to purchase the necessary equipment.

“A typeface consisted of individual pieces of metal type. Each piece was a single letter, a number, or a symbol, such as a period, comma, or ampersand. The type was kept in a divided wooden tray called a case. Capital letters were kept in the upper case. Below that, in the lower case, were the small letters. The terms “uppercase” and

“lowercase” are still used today to distinguish capital letters and small letters.

“The pieces of type were not in alphabetical order; they were organized according to frequency of use. To create a line of words to be printed, a worker, called a compositor, placed each piece of type in order on a composing stick. The compositor worked from a handwritten copy of the text to be printed. He then transferred each line of type to a flat tray called a galley. A galley contained all of the type for one printed page. A proof was then made from the galley. The compositor checked this first printed page for errors and made corrections. From this method of checking for errors comes the process of proofreading, which writers and editors still do today.”

– Glencoe Guide

## Unit 17 – Assignments

### Literature and Composition

- Read the Assignment Background below.
- From Franklin’s *Poor Richard’s Almanack*, we get many sayings that are still used today. With your parent’s permission, use the link found on the [ArtiosHCS](#) curriculum website to see some of the proverbs and aphorisms from *Poor Richard’s Almanac* still in use. See how many you recognize.
- Read the second part of *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*.

### Activities While Reading:

Choose one or two virtues you would like to work on during this unit.

Answer the Discussion Questions below in your reading journal. Be sure to use complete sentences and check for correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

Define the Vocabulary Words listed below.

- **Discussion Questions**
  1. What virtues did Benjamin Franklin choose to work on in order to achieve moral perfection?
  2. How did Franklin track his progress?
  3. What did a typical day look like for Benjamin Franklin?
  4. What was the benefit to working on one virtue at a time?

- **Vocabulary Words:**

altercation  
arduous  
eradicate  
expeditiously  
gratis

incorrigible  
indefatigable  
multifarious  
rectitude  
superfluities

sanguine  
sensible  
traduce

- Using the virtue(s) you chose to work on for this unit, create a chart to track your progress over the course of Unit 17.
- When you are almost finished with the last Lesson of Unit 17, write a six to eight sentence summary about your experience.
  - How did you feel after working on the virtues?
  - Was it hard to remember the virtues you chose?
  - Did you have to change your behavior?
  - Do you think you will continue working on your virtues?

## Unit 17 – Assignment Background

### Almanacs

An almanac (also referred to as almanack or almanach) is an annual publication containing various categories of information for the upcoming year. The categories often include weather, sports, and entertainment: church festivals, events, etc. Some, however, may also include information for farmers, such as the best times for planting and harvesting. Others may also include astrological information regarding the rising and setting of the sun, the movement of the tides, and the cycle of the moon.

Almanacs were not new when Benjamin Franklin published his first almanac. In fact, almanacs have been around since the Middle Ages. In 1732, Benjamin Franklin published his first *Poor Richard's Almanack* under the name Richard Saunders. Franklin chose this name from an almanac published a hundred years earlier in England. He got the idea of Poor Richard from Poor Roger, which was in a different almanac also published previously in England.

## Unit 18 – Assignments

### Literature and Composition

- In this unit, you will take a test on the vocabulary words and discussion questions. If your teacher doesn't have a vocabulary test to administer to you, visit your [ArtiosHCS](#) curriculum website to download the test.