

# Before the 50 States

October 2014

Written By Gavin Miller, Polly Rabinowitz, Sterling Jerins

Our group went to Philadelphia. We went with the 5th grade from the Manhattan New School. Our class was 5-507 - Nechy's class. We had fun, but we also were learning.

We went to the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, and Benjamin Franklin's print shop. Philadelphia is an important place because that's where the start of a new country formed. Philadelphia was where the Constitution and Declaration of Independence was written.



*Independence Hall*



*Benjamin and Debby Franklin's grave*



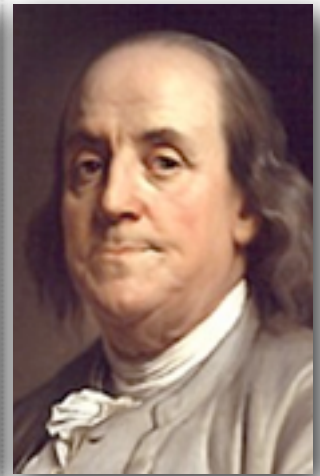
*Liberty Bell*

Those are some of the things that we visited like the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall.





Benjamin Franklin's grave.

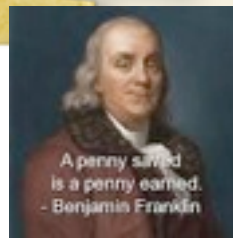


Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin is a very important person to our history. He was the oldest man in the Constitutional Convention, at age 81 or 82. He was buried in the Christ Church Burial Ground, with his lovely wife, Debby. Their daughter, Sarah, was buried right next to them.

Ben loved to be humorous. He wanted to actually write the Declaration of Independence, but James Madison told him, "You are going to put only funny jokes in it." So he didn't write it.

Benjamin Franklin loved to write quotes. For example, he wrote the quote: "an apple a day keeps the doctor away". He also made, "early to bed, early to rise, makes men wise." A quote he made "a penny saved is a penny earned", is a very special quote, because now people throw pennies on his gravestone to show respect.



A quote From Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin had 16 siblings. They were allowed to go to school for 2 years. At the age of 10, Ben and his siblings had to go work. Benjamin hated his job. His job was candle making. Finally his dad told him he could go under his brother's name and have his dream job as a printer.

Ben loved printing. He would work all day. One day he got into a fight with his brother, and he ran away from home at the age of 17. He made his own printing center. He was very successful. He wrote a successful book, The Poor Richard's Almanak, and he made lots of money.

When Benjamin Franklin died, two thousand people came to his gravestone. Benjamin Franklin was very important to us. He will always be a big part of history.

What we now call Independence Hall was once the Pennsylvania State House on Chestnut Street. Independence Hall was where the Constitutional Convention in 1787 took place, where the Constitution was thought of, debated on, written, and signed. Not only that, but just eleven years before the Constitutional Convention, the Declaration of Independence was signed there. Also, secret meetings between the delegates (such as George Washington, Ben Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, etc.) went on at the Independence Hall.

The purpose of the convention at Independence Hall was to draft and write the Constitution, which made Independence Hall famous. Most of these events happened in the Assembly Room.

In the Independence Hall, George Washington's chair had a sun on it. Benjamin Franklin wondered if it was a rising sun or a setting sun. He soon figured out that it was a rising sun, representing the rising of the new country. This chair is very famous today.

Many other important events took place in Independence Hall, which is why it is so well known in American history today. Some even call it, "The birthplace of the United States."



*Independence Hall*



*Inside Independence Hall*