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# STEPPING BACK IN TIME IN PHILADELPHIA



The actual Constitution!

## INTRODUCTION

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes at the Manhattan New School went on a trip to Philadelphia. We saw a lot of special colonial structures such as the Liberty Bell, Congress Hall, Independence Hall, United States Constitution, Declaration of Independence, Franklin's print shop and Christ Church Cemetery. There will be a lot more information about this in the rest of this newsletter, but I don't want to spoil too much!



Independence Hall

-BY JUDAH BERMAN

# National Constitution Center

The inside of the  
National Constitution  
Center



-BY LUCY ZWAKA

On our trip to Philadelphia, we went to the National Constitution Center. Inside of this special center we watched a presentation called "Freedom Rising." In the movie learned that in the 1700's, Great Britain ruled the American colonies. Then finally in 1775, the Revolutionary War began and Americans won the Revolutionary War for independence. On July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776, Americans declared independence. That is why we have huge celebrations on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1787 delegates met to develop a plan for a new government. Only delegates from Pennsylvania and Virginia showed on the right date. The meeting finally started on May 25<sup>th</sup> 1787. There were many men involved in the constitution document like James Madison, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Alexander Hamilton. Delegates trusted George and wanted him to be the president. On August 15<sup>th</sup> the delegates voted to sign the Constitution and out of the 42 citizens voted only 3 did not agree on the new constitution. The rest left in anger because they did not like the new constitution. Despite the fact that some were angry, most people thought this was the best it could've been or else it wouldn't of been voted for.

This presentation basically told us how we the people of the United States of America got our freedom and rights today.



# Benjamin Franklin



Benjamin was important to Philadelphia because his print shop is there and the independence hall is where Benjamin gave his powerful speech and convinced the delegates to sign the Declaration of Independence. Benjamin was born in 1706. Since his father did not have enough money he let each child go to school for two years (They had 18 children). He had a job in a candle shop but he changed his job in a print shop with James his brother. A few years later, he got in a fight with James but he made his own print shop in Philadelphia.

Years later he worked in the Constitution. He was the oldest member of the constitution. He gave a powerful speech and convinced the unhappy delegates to sign the declaration of Independence.

Benjamin died 1790 at the age of 84. More than 1,000 people attended his funeral. It is a tradition to throw money on his grave in Philadelphia because he was really careful with his money.

~BY RISA TAKEI

## The Liberty Bell

The Liberty Bell in Philadelphia.

Have you ever seen the Liberty Bell? Well class 507 has! The Liberty Bell is a very important item of history, want proof? Well, before you see this special item, you have to go through a little "security" where guards have to check you and your carry ons. Want to know what we learned? Well, last time the bell was rung was 1846! That's a long time ago. But it was only because that if they rung the bell anymore, it would have broken in half! But before the bell wasn't rung anymore, the bell would be rung in the morning to wake people up (only rich people had alarm clocks), and in the evening to welcome people back from work and to tell everyone the news. The Liberty Bell is very heavy. It is about 2,080 pounds! A very important fact is that in 1839 the bell was named "The Liberty Bell." The Liberty Bell is very important and will be known for many years on in the city of "Brotherly Love".



BY JORDAN SMALL