**Unit 8B  
Biography & Literature**

**Benjamin Franklin**

**LESSON 1**

­

# Teacher Edition: Conversation & Collaboration

## Lesson 1: Build Background

Lesson Notes:

The Conversation & Collaboration lessons focus on language acquisition. They include opportunities for students to practice speaking English through a variety of activities. The Teacher Edition provides suggestions for ways in which students might practice speaking English while working independently.



Students can complete the speaking, listening, and presenting activities in a variety of ways, depending on access to technology:

No tech: Students can write their answers and then speak with someone at home or with a friend.

Wi-Fi access: If students can access Wi-Fi, they can use an online app such as Vocaroo to record themselves or Screencastify to make a presentation and email it to you.

Smartphone access: Students can record audio or make a video presentation and email it to you.

A close up of a logo

Description automatically generatedThis lesson includes opportunities for collaboration. Let students know if they will be working with a partner and/or using technology. Paired students should each fill out all sections of the lesson as they work with their partner. Each student should produce their own presentation in Activity 3 of the lesson.

If you are assigning partners, students should be paired with another student at least one proficiency level higher or lower than them (e.g., Emerging with Expanding; Expanding with Bridging, etc.), if possible.

A picture containing mirror

Description automatically generatedThis lesson offers speaking opportunities. Inform students in advance if they will use technology to complete these activities.

This is the end of the Teacher Lesson Notes. Please print the Student Edition starting on the next page.

# Student Edition: Conversation & Collaboration

## Lesson 1: Build Background

In this unit, you will read about Benjamin Franklin. He lived in the United States over 300 years ago. Benjamin Franklin did many important things in his life. He invented hundreds of items, including bifocal glasses and swim fins. He also mapped the Gulf Stream.

**In this lesson, you will...**

* identify real-life problems and plan an invention to solve a problem.
* present an invention as a short advertisement.

### Materials:

Bilingual dictionary

|  |
| --- |
| **A picture containing mirror  Description automatically generatedIcons**  **A close up of a logo  Description automatically generatedSpeaking activity**  **Pair activity**  **Wi-Fi and a Tablet, Computer, or Smartphone**  **A picture containing knife, drawing  Description automatically generated­Ideas**  **Vocabulary** |

A close up of a logo

Description automatically generated A picture containing mirror

Description automatically generated Warm-Up: **Ask questions related to Benjamin Franklin**



In this activity, you will ask people questions related to Benjamin Franklin.

1. Use the information in the squares to ask questions. Ask as many people as you can. When someone answers a question, write the person’s name in the square.

Find someone who…

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| is interested in becoming an author. | can explain the meaning of the word diplomat. | knows what a scientist does. | has heard of Benjamin Franklin. |
| has flown a kite. | knows another word for spectacles. | can point out the Gulf Stream on a map. | can explain why colds are contagious. |
| knows what a lending library is. | can give an example  of a fundraiser. | has a great idea  for an invention. | can explain how  insurance works. |
| can explain what an apprentice does. | knows what a pen name is. | can explain what a powdered wig is. | knows what denomination of dollar bill is called a Benjamin. |

1. Write five answers from your chart in complete sentences. For example: “Lori knows what a lending library is” or “Lori is one person who knows what a lending library is.”

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. Talk about it. Tell someone your answers.

A close up of a logo

Description automatically generated A close up of a logo

Description automatically generated A picture containing mirror

Description automatically generated Activity 1: **Think about inventions**

Benjamin Franklin invented many things in his life. In this activity, you will think about how inventions solve real-life problems.

**Part 1: Analyze a proverb**

There is a proverb in English that relates to inventions: “Necessity is the mother of invention.” This proverb means that problems motivate people to find solutions. This proverb says that necessity is the “mother” of invention.

**A picture containing knife, drawing

Description automatically generated**

**Vocabulary Tips:** Definitions

**proverb**: a brief, popular saying that expresses something thought to be true

**invention**: a useful new device or process

1. Discuss the proverb. What does the word “mother” mean in this proverb? Use the sentence frames and writing box to plan your speaking.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Emerging** | Mother of invention means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
| Expanding | The word mother in this proverb is a way to say \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
| Bridging | The significance of the word mother in this proverb is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |

1. Talk about it. Tell someone what you think “mother” means in this proverb.

**Part 2: Discuss inventions**

Inventions solve real-life problems and change our lives. Look at the modern-day inventions listed in column 1 in the chart.

1. Highlight two inventions in the chart to analyze and discuss with someone.
2. Complete the chart for these two inventions. In column 2, write what people did before this item was invented. In column 3, write the problem that the invention solved.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Invention | What we had before this invention | What problem the invention solves |
| cell phone | Before this invention, we had telephones that were connected by wires. When we were not home, we had to use a pay phone. In emergencies, we could not call from wherever we needed help. | The cell phone allows us to call others no matter where we are. |
| microwave oven |  |  |
| airplane |  |  |
| car |  |  |
| backpack |  |  |
| computer |  |  |
| credit card |  |  |
| sunglasses |  |  |

1. Talk about it. Tell someone about one of the inventions you analyzed. Use the sentence frames to plan your speaking.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Emerging** | I analyzed the invention of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This invention helps us by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
| Expanding | Before the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was invented, we had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  One way the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ helps us is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
| Bridging | Our way of life changed dramatically with the invention of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Before the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ existed, people had to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. One solution provided by this invention is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |

A close up of a logo

Description automatically generated A picture containing mirror

Description automatically generated Activity 2: **Plan an invention**



There are many real-world problems that could be solved by an invention. In this activity, you will think of a problem and create an invention that could help solve the problem. 

1. Brainstorm a list of real-life problems. List your ideas in the writing box.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. Highlight one real-life problem you will solve with an invention.
2. Complete the chart about your new invention. Write the name of the invention and describe how it can solve the problem. Draw or describe what your invention looks like.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name of Invention | What It Can Do | Description or Drawing |
| homework alarm | If a student always forgets to bring their homework to school, my invention is a special alarm that hands a student their homework before leaving home. | There is a special alarm connected to the door handle. There is a lever with a clip on the end where the homework is attached. The alarm sounds, and the lever drops the homework in your hands when you open the door. |
|  |  |  |

A close up of a logo

Description automatically generated A picture containing mirror

Description automatically generated Activity 3: **Advertise your new invention**



In this activity, you will present your invention as an advertisement. You will also be an active listener for someone as they advertise an invention.

1. Present your invention as an advertisement to someone. Tell someone how your invention can solve a problem. Use your chart from Activity 2 and the sentence frames to plan your speaking.

**A picture containing knife, drawing

Description automatically generated**

**Vocabulary:** Definitions

**advertisement:** a [picture](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/picture), [short](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/short) [film](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/film), [song](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/song), or text that [tries](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/try) to [persuade](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/persuade) [people](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/people) to [buy](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/buy) a [product](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/product) or [service](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/service)

**Example:**

The Homework Alarm

“If forgetting your homework is a problem for you, I can help you. My invention is an alarm that will hand you your homework before you leave home.”

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Emerging** | If \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a problem for you, I can help. My invention is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
| Expanding | If you have ever had a problem with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I have the solution. My invention is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and it is designed to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ so that you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
| Bridging | One of the most annoying problems students have is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I can help with my latest invention \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Don’t forget, if you have problems with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, you need \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |

1. Talk about it. Tell someone about your invention. Answer any questions your listener may have about your invention.
2. Prepare to be an active listener for someone. Review the different actions active listeners do during presentations. Place a check next to the ideas that are characteristics of good, active listeners.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Active Listener Checklist: | Yes | No |
| The listener sits up straight and listens respectfully to the presenter. |  |  |
| The listener takes notes. |  |  |
| The listener thinks about and records possible questions to ask the presenter. |  |  |
| After the presentation, the listener shows appreciation to the presenter (e.g., thanking or clapping). |  |  |
| The listener asks the presenter logical and reflective questions about the presentation. |  |  |
| The listener takes notes on strategies that they could borrow from the presenter and use in their own presentation. |  |  |

1. Be an active listener for someone as they advertise their invention. Write a *Wh-question* you have about their invention in the chart. Summarize the presenter’s answer.   
   

*Wh*-*questions* refers to questions that begin with:

Who

What

When

Where

Why

How

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| My Question |  |
| Presenter’s Answer |  |

A close up of a logo

Description automatically generated A close up of a logo

Description automatically generated A picture containing mirror

Description automatically generated Wrap-Up

In this lesson, you thought as inventors do and created a solution for a real-life problem. Answer the questions.

1. What other problems would you like to solve with an invention?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. Can you think of some inventions that have created new problems?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. Talk about it. Share your answers with someone.