

### Benjamin Franklin meets Rev. George Whitefield

- 1) Mr. Franklin described the era as one where “it seem’d as if all the World were growing Religious; so that one could not walk thro’ the Town in an Evening without Hearing Psalms sung in different Families of every Street.” What religious movement was Franklin witnessing?
- 2) What did the inhabitants of Philadelphia do to allow travelling preachers of any faith to preach within the city limits?
- 3) Mr. Franklin admired Mr. Whitefield’s proposal to build a house for orphans in Georgia but disagreed with how to best complete the project. What was the basis of Mr. Franklin’s disagreement which led Franklin to vow: “I silently resolved [Whitefield] should get nothing from me.”
- 4) Historians have commented on the fiery power of Whitfield’s sermons. They also comment on the cheapness of Benjamin Franklin’s budget. (He made his daughter wear patches on her wedding dress rather than but a new one). After Franklin listened to Whitefield’s speech, who won the battle of the wills?
- 5) Another member of Franklin’s literary club planned ahead for the power of Whitefield’s sermon by doing what to prevent himself from getting caught up in the moment? Did it work?
- 6) How did Franklin verify the accounts that Whitefield preached to over 25,000 people in one outing? What does that say about how Franklin approaches an unknown question?
- 7) Franklin developed the ability to determine if the Preacher Whitefield was reciting an old sermon or a new one. How was he able to determine that and what advantage did Franklin think travelling (itinerant) preachers have over a minister in a fixed church location?