

Name _____

Activity 1 – Look and Think

Look carefully at the reproduction of Hiram Powers’ marble statue of *Benjamin Franklin*. Then answer these questions about the statue.

1. The tricorne or three-cornered hat that Franklin wears was popular during his lifetime. Put a dot on each of the three corners of Franklin’s hat.
2. Compare Benjamin Franklin’s suit, hat and hairstyle to those of modern businessmen. How are they alike and different? Fill in this chart to compare Franklin’s clothes and hair to that of modern businessmen.



Hiram Powers, *Benjamin Franklin*

	Today’s business suits	Franklin’s suit
coat		
Legs/shoes		
Neck/shirt		
hat		
vest		
hair		



3. Hiram Powers reminds us that Franklin experimented with electricity. Draw a red line on the line in the tree trunk that looks like it might have been struck by lightning.
4. Find the main line that runs throughout this sculpture. Trace this line with a thick blue line extending from Franklin’s chin, through the centerline of his vest and down his left leg and foot (closest to the tree stump).
5. In a sculpture the space around and between its main parts is called *negative space* and is usually very important in its artistic design. One negative space is between Franklin’s two legs. Find another important negative space in this sculpture. Color these negative spaces green.
6. Circle the foot that bears most of Franklin’s weight.
7. What details show the texture or feel of Franklin’s clothes? _____
8. What does the hand on Franklin’s chin suggest about him? _____
9. When Hiram Powers made this statue of Benjamin Franklin, some art critics thought he should show Franklin wearing a Roman toga rather than clothes like he had actually worn. During the 19th century statues of United States leaders were often depicted in the clothing of the first democracies, ancient classical Greece and Rome.
 - a. By showing Franklin in his own clothes, rather than that of ancient Greece, what does Hiram Powers suggest about Franklin? _____
 - b. Explain why you would prefer to see early United States leaders portrayed in modern or classical Grecian/Roman clothing.

