

# Franklin, Jefferson, and America's First Institutions

**Link:** <https://www.amphilsoc.org/museum/exhibitions/great-talks-american-philosophical-society/franklin-jefferson-and-americas-first>

**Length:** 1:12:56

**Date:** August 5th, 2019

**Description:** Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson were two pivotal early American figures in politics, scientific discovery, and the development of many of America's early institutions. Dr. John Van Horne, Director Emeritus of the Library Company of Philadelphia, explores the history of these institutions and their founders.

## Guiding Questions:

- What is the importance of some of the early institutions in Philadelphia?
- How have the meetings and mission of the APS changed (or not) throughout the centuries?
- What does it mean to have a legacy? What is Benjamin Franklin's legacy in Philadelphia?
- What was Jefferson's perspective on historical documentation and how did he try to provide his own contribution to the field?

**Great for:** Grade 7-12

**Keywords:** US History, Early America, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, history

**Notes:** Title is "America's First Institutions" but focus is primarily on APS. Also contains some interesting content on Franklin and Jefferson in the natural sciences that could be interesting.