1) In what way is Franklin’s Autobiography a representative text of the Enlightenment?
2) Suppose someone said, “Franklin’s Autobiography is a distinctly American text.” Why might they say that? Or does saying that make no sense?
3) What is Franklin’s announced purpose in writing the Autobiography?
4) How is the Benjamin Franklin who presented to us in the biography distinctly “American?”
5) Are Franklin’s values different from our/your own? How so?
6) Imagine Franklin were able to visit contemporary America. Based on your reading, do you think Franklin would approve of what we have become? Why or why not?
7) What was/is deism?
8) Compare and contrast Franklin’s Autobiography with the Declaration of Independence.