

WORLD BUILDING

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN: STATESMAN TO REVOLUTIONARY

Revision #1.1

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## **Ride Description:**

Philadelphia's Historic District is a treasure trove of American History, with various iconic landmarks such as Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. Visitors immerse themselves in the nation's birthplace, explore cobblestone streets lined with historic buildings and museums, and experience the rich heritage that played such a pivotal role in the founding of the United States.

Benjamin Franklin, a key figure in early American history, is integral to Philadelphia's Historic District as his legacy is deeply woven throughout the fabric of the city. Many sites, such as Franklin Court and the Benjamin Franklin Museum, commemorate his contributions as the statesman, innovator, and founding father. Within Philadelphia's Historic District, Visitors become Colonists when they enter *Benjamin Franklin: Statesman to Revolutionary*, an interactive attraction centered upon Benjamin's life.

## **The Queue:**

The attraction queue is designed to engage visitors from the moment they enter the doors, providing a blend of education and entertainment. When Guests enter the show building, they are immediately immersed in the atmosphere of Philadelphia as it was in the 18th century. The queue begins in a colonial-style courtyard, cobblestone streets and colonial-style buildings create a picturesque scene.

The clip-clop of horse hooves, distant vendor calls, and marketplace conversations form the soundscape. The air carries scents of wood-burning fires and street food. Walking on uneven cobblestones, you feel the crisp air, occasionally accompanied by a breeze from the nearby Delaware River. Touching objects in the marketplace provides tactile sensations of handmade goods and textured fabrics, reflecting the craftsmanship of 18th-century life.

Throughout the queue, touch-points that Guests can interact with aid in understanding critical milestones in Benjamin Franklin's life. Touchscreen displays and artifacts offer glimpses into his early years, inventions, and contributions to science and diplomacy. Also, costumed guides donned in 18th-century attire provide additional context, share anecdotes, and answer questions from Guests. This adds an individualized touch and enhances the immersive experience.

A highlight of the queue is a replica of Benjamin Franklin's printing press, where Guests observe demonstrations of how printing was done in Franklin's time. Guests will revisit a room similar to this queue room inside the ride.

Midway through the queue, a colonial garden with comfortable seating is provided, creating a relaxing atmosphere for Guests to enjoy while their family engages with the interactive touch-points. To make the waiting experience more engaging, interactive quill writing stations are set up, allowing visitors to try their hand at writing with a quill pen, just as Franklin did.

As Guests leave the garden, they pass by a recreated workshop displaying some of Franklin's inventions and experiments. Guests reach the side of the workshop, where they are introduced

to their guide – a lifelike holographic representation of Benjamin Franklin. With a spark of enthusiasm in his eyes, the holographic Franklin warmly welcomes everyone as "Colonists." Benjamin asks the Colonists to kindly follow him to the next room, where they will embark on a voyage through history.

Finally, Colonists reach the ride-boarding area, ready to embark on an immersive journey through Benjamin Franklin's pivotal moments. *Benjamin Franklin: Statesman to Revolutionary* seamlessly blends storytelling, education, and entertainment, creating an unforgettable experience for all ages. Colonists enter a slow-moving Omni-Directional vehicle designed to take them through scenes within the attraction that highlight various moments in Benjamin Franklin's life. The ride is accompanied by Benjamin Franklin's voice, guiding Colonists through the different chapters of his life. Various animatronics highlight Franklin's inventions and achievements, creating a visually captivating journey through the stages of his life.

### **The Printshop:**

The journey begins as the vehicles glide gracefully through a darkened passage, with Franklin's voice guiding them through the early chapters of his life. As Colonists enter, they are enveloped by the sights of the first meticulously recreated scene, witnessing the glow of a young Benjamin Franklin working in his brother's print shop. The dimly lit surroundings enhance the immersive experience, allowing the historical ambiance to take center stage.

The soundscape is enriched by Franklin's narrations, complemented by the subtle hum of printing presses and the ambiance of 18th-century Philadelphia. The echo of footsteps in the print shop and the rustle of papers contribute to the auditory tapestry, creating a captivating, audible atmosphere. The air carries a faint scent of ink and aged paper, evoking the essence of the colonial print shop.

### **The Workshop:**

The ride vehicle moves the Colonists to the next scene, where they see the exterior of Franklin's workshop that they walked by within the queue. Dazzling lights stimulate the senses to depict the famous kite-flying experiment, and electricity crackling creates an electrifying atmosphere. As the sky darkens and the wind picks up, the Colonists see an animatronic Franklin exit his workshop and tell them that he is going to experiment with a key on a kite. The simulated kite-flying experiment depicts one of the most memorable highlights of his life.

The ride vehicle begins to move as Benjamin invites the Colonists inside the workshop. Colonists are surrounded by a display of Franklin's inventions, including his lightning rod and the Franklin stove. Animatronics bring these creations to life, highlighting the innovative spirit and genius of Benjamin Franklin. As the vehicle glides through the workshop, Guests feel the subtle vibrations and catch the faint scent of wood and metal, immersing them in the sensory richness of Franklin's groundbreaking inventions.

### **Revolutionary War:**

The ride vehicle transports the Colonists to a battlefield, seamlessly transforming them into Revolutionaries. As the atmosphere shifts, the distant rumble of cannons, the crack of muskets,

and the rhythmic beat of marching drums surround the Colonists. The vehicle begins to vibrate as the terrain meets the battlefield scene. With smoke and the smell of gunpowder, Benjamin narrates:

"In the crucible of revolution, this nation was forged with the thunderous explosions of cannons and the spirit of those who believed in liberty."

The ride introduces the earthy smell of damp soil and grass, authentically representing a battlefield setting. Franklin's narration continues:

"The scent of the earth beneath our feet, a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made on this hallowed ground." Shouts of soldiers and patriotic melodies fill the air, with Franklin stating, "Amidst the chaos, the melody of freedom emerged, sung by those who dared to defy rule."

This immersive scene captures the challenges faced during this crucial time in history. Franklin concludes, "As Revolutionaries, we stood united, facing adversity with unwavering resolve. This moment echoes in the heartbeat of our nation's history."

### **Diplomacy in France:**

The ride vehicle moves to the next scene, transporting Colonists to the political halls of Paris, where Benjamin Franklin deftly navigates his diplomatic mission in France.

As Franklin's voice guides the journey, he reflects: "In the City of Lights, diplomacy was our weapon, and intellect our shield." Colonists can catch hints of delicate perfumes and the fragrance of refined French gardens, immersing them in the elegant halls of European diplomacy. Franklin's words echo, "Amidst the whispers of political intrigue, the subtle scents of perfumes and gardens reveal the artistry of diplomacy, where every gesture holds significance."

The scene is adorned with elegant décor, offering a visual glimpse into the sophisticated world of European diplomacy.

Franklin's commentary continues: "Here, in the grandeur of Parisian halls, ideas flowed like fine wine, shaping the destiny of a fledgling nation."

The opulent surroundings display the intricate dance of politics and strategy, creating a captivating tableau for the Colonists to witness.

### **The Convention:**

As the vehicle leaves the halls of diplomatic Paris, Colonists enter a scene built to replicate the garden from the queue. This scene transitions Colonists from France, back to Philadelphia, to the Constitutional Convention. The vehicle enters the drafting room, where the Colonists can hear the animated debates of animatronic Franklin engaging with other founding fathers, echoing spirited discussions from the creation of the United States Constitution.

The sounds of passionate discourse fill the air, creating an auditory backdrop emphasizing the importance of compromise and collaboration during this pivotal moment in shaping the nation. The sense of touch is heightened as Guests feel the vehicle's motion, simulating the charged atmosphere of historical debates. Additionally, subtle fragrances evoke the scent of aged parchment and ink, further enhancing the overall sensory experience and transporting Guests into the heart of the nation's founding.

As the vehicle glides through the drafting room, an animatronic figure of Benjamin Franklin takes center stage, commanding attention. With a twinkle in his eye and a wisdom that transcends time, Franklin addresses the guests in a closing speech that resonates with the spirit of the Constitutional Convention:

"My fellow Americans, we stand at the crossroads of history, forging a document that will shape the destiny of our great nation. Let us remember that compromise is the essence of democracy, and collaboration is the cornerstone of progress. As we debate and deliberate, let us be guided by the principles of justice, liberty, and the pursuit of a more perfect union."

As the vehicle continues its journey, the words of Benjamin Franklin linger in the air, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of those experiencing this immersive historical adventure.

### **Legacy and Enlightenment Finale:**

The ride vehicle moves towards the attraction's exit, providing Colonists with a grand finale that serves as a culmination of Benjamin Franklin's remarkable life achievements. As Colonists begin their return to the loading area, it is a moment for reflection on Franklin's enduring legacy. A video montage incorporates projections, visuals, and music to celebrate these multifaceted aspects of Franklin's legacy. It proves how one individual's convictions and actions can shape a better society. This reflection prompts Colonists to consider not only Franklin's contributions to science, culture, and the United States but also his ethical convictions, like his commitment to the abolition of slavery.

As the ride concludes, Colonists leave with a profound sense of inspiration and admiration for Benjamin Franklin's brilliance and impactful contributions to history. The experience encourages them to draw inspiration from Franklin's principles, promoting democracy, social responsibility, and personal growth. Ultimately, Guests depart with a renewed appreciation for the values that shaped the founding fathers and a deeper understanding of how historical figures like Franklin can guide individuals toward becoming better members of society. Returning to the present day, Guests disembark with a newfound appreciation for the brilliance and enduring spirit of Benjamin Franklin. The ride serves as a testament to the power of innovation, curiosity, and the human spirit – an exploration through history that leaves Colonists inspired by the wisdom and achievements of one of history's greatest minds.