

The Albany Plan

Yep, the Albany Plan was a plan written in a town called Albany. It was written by Benjamin Franklin. He was ahead of his time by suggesting such a plan. What was his plan? Read on...

By the mid-1700's most of the English colonists in America had never been to England. They had been born in America. Many didn't like having to follow laws that were made way across the ocean in England. They felt that the laws were unfair and they complained about them to the king. The king ignored the complaints. That was easy to do because the colonists were not united. They were divided into 13 parts--the 13 colonies. Anytime something is divided into parts it is weaker. A broken pencil can be glued together, but it is vulnerable and easily broken again; it is weak.

1. Why did the colonists complain?

2. Why were the colonies weak?

Benjamin Franklin wanted the colonies to be strong so the king would listen to the complaints. He realized that the colonies were weak because they were separate from each other. To make the colonies stronger, he wrote a plan called the Albany Plan. The Albany Plan said that the colonies should work together as one unit. It said that each colony should elect someone to represent that colony. Then all 13 representatives would meet together. At their meetings they would talk about their complaints, share ideas and come up with ways to get what they wanted from the king. Then they would return to their own colonies and explain what had been decided. That way all the colonies would be working together on a plan. They would be one strong unit instead of 13 weak pieces.

3. Why did Benjamin Franklin make the Albany Plan?

4. What did the Albany Plan say?

5. How would the plan make them strong?

Each colony voted on whether or not they wanted to follow the Albany Plan. They voted NO!! Each colony was afraid to join with the other colonies. They were jealous of each other and didn't trust each other. They wanted to make their own decisions and not have to go along with something they might not like. Benjamin Franklin's idea was a good one, but his plan was premature. The colonies were not ready to work together YET. But they learn later that they have to cooperate.

6. Why did the colonists reject the Albany Plan?

When Franklin made his plan, he made a poster to illustrate his idea. He hoped that the poster would persuade the colonists that his idea was a good one. That poster is below. Study it.



7. What do the letters stand for?

8. What do the pieces of the snake represent?

9. What is the message he is giving to the colonists?

10. Think about the posters around this school that are persuasive. What do they say and what are they trying to persuade you to do?