

Week Ten: Day 4

How Benny West Learned to Be a Painter, Continued

REVIEW: Re-read the story, “How Benny West Learned to Be a Painter.” Then answer the Comprehension Questions of Day 1.

CULTURE

The Quakers were people who believed in God. They lived in England and were part of the Church of England for a long time. But the king started telling people how to worship and how to live. Some people in the Church started listening to the king and doing this too. The Quakers did not think that the king had the right to tell them how to worship and live for God. They wanted to worship God in the way the Bible tells us to worship and live for him. The Quakers left England and came to America. They were happy to live the life they believed God wanted them to live.

The Quakers had a certain way of thinking. Some of what they thought was right. Some of what they thought was wrong. One thing they believed was that drawings and pictures were not useful. So they did not like people to paint or draw pictures. They thought it was a waste of time and not wise.

A talent is a gift from God. What kind of things does God give people? Good things or bad things?

Is drawing pictures good or bad? _____

Was it wrong for Benny West to draw? _____

Week Ten: Day 4

Story Puzzle Fun

Uh oh! Someone wrote a story but left key words out. Can you finish the story by following the clues?

Instructions: Write the correct word on the line next to its clue. Each clue is a definition. Use the word bank to help you match the right word with the definition. Have fun!

The (mischievous) _____ Children

Once upon a time, there was a little boy named Ike. Now Ike was a (idle, wandering from business) _____ boy. His (one of the same kind) _____, Ick, liked to join him for some fun. Ick came over to Ike's house. He looked in the school room for Ike and did not see him. Ick followed the (figures cut into stone or metal) _____ that Ike had made using (a plant whose berries make a red dye) _____. He went up the stairs and parted the (a cloth made of hemp or flax used for painting) _____ hanging from the roof. There in the (part of the house that is directly under the roof) _____, Ick found Ike, the (mischievous) _____ boy.

Word Bank:

fellow	canvas
truant	garret
pokeweed	engravings
naughty	

Week Ten: Day 5 Review



Wow! Great job explorer! You traveled to Philadelphia and met Benny West. You learned how God gave him a great talent for drawing pictures and how he learned to make paints from plants.



ACTIVITY TIME! LET'S MAKE SOME COLORS!

Ready for some fun! The Indians taught Benny West how to make paints from different plants. Benny used three different colors. He made blue paint from the indigo plant, red paint from pokeweed, and yellow paint from the earth. He used these colors to make other colors too!

You will need:

Yellow paint, **blue** paint, and **red** paint (tube paints will work great)

A small paintbrush

A sheet of paper to paint on

A paper towel

Two small containers for water (to rinse your brush off with)

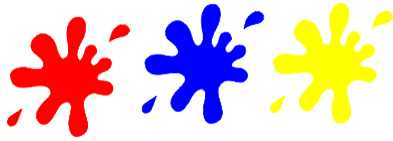
Newspaper (to protect the counter surface)

A play shirt, old shirt, or painting apron (to protect you!)



Step 1: Setup

Spread the newspaper to cover the full counter or floor space. Put water in your two containers and set them on the newspaper. Then put on your protective shirt or apron.



Step 2: Mix and Learn

Take the tube of blue paint and put some on the newspaper. Put some yellow paint on the newspaper away from the blue paint.

Put some red paint on the newspaper away from the other paints.

Now put some more yellow paint on the newspaper away from the other paint piles. Add red paint and mix the colors together with the handle of your paintbrush. Wipe the handle of your paintbrush off with the paper towel. What color do you have?

Do this to make as many colors as you can.



Step 3: Paint a Picture

Once you have all the colors you can think of, think of a picture you would like to make. Paint your paper! Make sure you rinse off your paintbrush before putting it in a different color.



Step 4: Let your beautiful painting dry.

Step 5: Enjoy your painting!

Picture Links for Week Ten:

Pokeweed plant and berries:

<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/c8/Pokeberries.png/220px-Pokeberries.png>

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/7e/01786_-_Phytolacca_americana_\(Amerikanische_Kermesbeere\).JPG](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/7e/01786_-_Phytolacca_americana_(Amerikanische_Kermesbeere).JPG)

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Image:Pokeberries.png>

Week Ten: Day 4 – Story Puzzle Fun

The (mischievous) Naughty Children

Once upon a time, there was a little boy named Ike. Now Ike was a (idle, wandering from business) truant boy. His (one of the same kind) fellow, Ick, liked to join him for some fun. Ick came over to Ike's house. He looked in the school room for Ike and did not see him. Ick followed the (figures cut into stone or metal) engravings that Ike had made using (a plant whose berries make a red dye) pokeweed. He went up the stairs and parted the (a cloth made of hemp or flax used for painting) canvas hanging from the roof. There in the (part of the house that is directly under the roof) garret, Ick found Ike, the (mischievous) naughty boy.

Glossary of Vocabulary Words

fellow	- one of the same kind
Quaker	- a person who broke away from the Church of England (also called, a Friend)
pokeweed	- a plant whose berries make a red dye
canvas	- a cloth made of hemp or flax used for painting
engravings	- figures cut into stone or metal
garret	- the part of a house that is directly under the roof
vexed	- irritated, troubled, agitated
naughty	- mischievous
truant	- idle, wandering from business

Character Word:

Talent	- a natural ability or skill given by God
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Stories of Great Americans for Little Americans

How Benny West Learned To Be a Painter

The following is an excerpt from *Stories of Great Americans for Little Americans*, written by Edward Eggleston and published in 1895. Some spelling, punctuation, and phrasing has been modernized for ease of reading.

In old times, there lived in Pennsylvania a little fellow whose name was Benjamin West. He lived in a long stone house.

He had never seen a picture. The country was new, and there were not many pictures in it. Benny's father was a Friend, or Quaker. The Friends of that day did not think that pictures were useful things to make or to have. Before he was seven years old, this little boy began to draw pictures. One day, he was watching the cradle of his sister's child. The baby smiled. Benny was so pleased with her beauty that he made a picture of her in red and black ink. The picture of the baby pleased his mother when she saw it. That was very pleasant to the boy.

He made other pictures. At school, he used to draw with a pen before he could write. He made pictures of birds and of animals. Sometimes he would draw flowers.

He liked to draw so much that sometimes he forgot to do his work. His father sent him to work in the field one day. The father went out to see how well he was doing his work. Benny was nowhere to be found. At last, his father saw him sitting under a large pokeweed. He was making pictures. He had squeezed the juice out of some pokeberries. The juice of pokeberries is deep red. With this, the boy had made his pictures. When the father looked at them, he was surprised. There were portraits of every member of the family. His father knew every picture.

Up to this time, Benny had no paints nor any brushes. The Indians had not all gone away from that neighborhood. The Indians painted their faces with red and yellow colors. These colors they made themselves. Sometimes they prepared them from the juice of some plant. Sometimes they got them by finding red or yellow earth. Some of the Indians could make rough pictures with these colors.

The Indians near the house of Benny's father must have liked the boy. They showed him how to make red and yellow colors for himself. He got some of his mother's indigo to make blue. He now had red, yellow, and blue. By mixing these three, the other colors that he wanted could be made.

But he had no brush to paint with. He took some long hairs from the cat's tail. Of these, he made his brushes. He used so many of the cat's hairs that her tail began to look bare. Everybody in the house began to wonder what was the matter with her tail. At last Benny

told them where he got his brushes.

A cousin of Benny's came from the city on a visit. He saw some of the boy's drawings. When he went home, he sent Benny a box of paints. With the paints were some brushes.

And there was some canvas such as pictures are painted on. And that was not all. There were in the box six beautiful engravings.

The little painter now felt himself rich. He was so happy that he could hardly sleep at all. At night, he put the box that held his treasures on a chair by his bed. As soon as daylight came, he carried the precious box to the garret, or attic room. The garret of the long stone house was his studio. Here he worked away all day long. He did not go to school at all. Perhaps he forgot there was any school. Perhaps the little artist could not tear himself away from his work.

But the schoolmaster missed him. He came to ask if Benny was ill. The mother was vexed when she found that he had stayed away from school. She went to look for the naughty boy. After a while, she found the little truant. He was hard at work in his garret. She saw what he had been doing. He had not copied any of his new engravings. He had made up a new picture by taking one person out of one engraving and another out of another. He had copied them so that they made a picture that he had thought of for himself.

His mother could not find it in her heart to punish him. She was too much pleased with the picture he was making. This picture was not finished. But his mother would not let him finish it. She was afraid he would spoil it if he did anything more on it.

The good people called Friends did not like the making of pictures, as I said. But they thought that Benny West had a talent that he ought to use. So he went to Philadelphia to study his art. After a while, he sailed away to Italy to see the pictures that great artists had painted.

At last, he settled in England. The King of England was at that time the king of that country too. The king liked West's pictures. West became the king's painter. He came to be the most famous painter in England.

He liked to remember his boyish work. He liked to remember the time when he was a little Quaker boy making his paints of poke juice and Indian colors.