

## Pennsylvania Hospital Teaching Unit

Philadelphia was colonial America's most populated city, and home to the nation's first chartered hospital, the Pennsylvania Hospital. Established in 1751 under the auspices of King George II, the Pennsylvania Hospital served the Philadelphia region through major outbreaks, including the 1793 Yellow Fever Epidemic, as well as every military conflict beginning with the French and Indian War, while adding many medical firsts to its resume.

The following lesson will aid students in the evolution of health care in the new nation.

### Lesson I

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Essential question: Why was the American Colonies' first hospital created in Philadelphia in 1751?

### Goals

1. Students will develop hypotheses about purposes of the founding of the first hospital in the American colonies and test those hypotheses with primary documents from 1751 and historical material from 1895.
2. Students will write a persuasive speech to the Pennsylvania Assembly of 1751 assuming the identity of Dr. Thomas Bond the hospital's founder.



### Teaching Method: An Inquiry Approach

**Hook:** conduct a "silent conversation"  
(<http://www.facinghistory.org/resources/strategies/big-paper-building-silent-con>)  
with your students using the following information.

Imagine a World without a hospital:

- \*no routine doctor visit ( no well visit)
- \*no routine vaccine schedule
- \*no tests for diseases (no lab work)
- \*no hand washing to prevent the spread of disease
  - \*no Band-Aids
- \*no pharmacy to buy over counter medicines
  - \*no emergency room
  - \*no medical school
- \*no medical insurance for poor or people who could not afford to pay a doctorIf you got sick you relied on your family and friends to provide home remedies based on family

recipes. If you could afford to hire a physician, the quality of the physician depended on your ability to pay. Many poorly trained men used the title of physician because there was no official program to credential.

After students have completed a full cycle of writing in their circle, open up discussion with class sharing their thoughts.

Explain to your students that the list that you just read was the colonial world in 1751. Ask students to write hypotheses as to why do you think a hospital was founded? List on page.

Students will test their hypotheses with primary documents and historical material. Teachers can project the documents in attached images or print out hard copies to distribute to students.

1. Share the Petition "To the honorable House of Representatives of the Province of Pennsylvania"

The teacher models active reading by reading aloud the first paragraph and underline the the phrases that are significant. Then the students read and highlight significant phrases in the Petition.

Students can revise hypotheses after reading and discussing the Petition.

To the honourable House of Representatives of  
the Province of Pennsylvania,  
The Petition of sundry Inhabitants of the said Province,  
Humbly showeth,

(Teacher reads aloud and underlines) THAT with the Numbers of People, the number of Lunatics or Persons dis-tempered in Mind and deprived of their rational Faculties, hath greatly encreased in this Province.

That some of them going at large are a Terror to their Neighbours, who are daily apprehensive of the Violences they may commit ; And others are continually wasting their Substance, to the great Injury of themselves and Families, ill disposed Persons wickedly taking Advantage of their unhappy Condition, and drawing them into unreasonable Bargains, &c.

That few or none of them are so sensible of their Condition, as to submit voluntarily to the Treatment their respective Cases require, and therefore continue in the same deplorable State during their Lives ; whereas it has been found, by the Experience of many Years, that above two Thirds of the Mad People received into Bethlehem Hospital, and there treated properly, have been perfectly cured.

(Students read and underline significant phrases)Your Petitioners beg Leave farther to represent, that tho' the good Laws of this Province have made many compassionate and charitable Provisions for the Relief of the Poor, yet something farther seems wanting in Favour of such, whose Poverty is made more miserable by the additional Weight of a grievous Disease, from which they might easily be relieved, if they were not situated at too great a Distance from regular Advice and Assistance ; whereby many

languish out their Lives, tortur'd perhaps with the Stone, devour'd by the Cancer, deprived of Sight by Cataracts, or gradually decaying by loathsome Distempers ; who, if the Expense in the present manner of Nursing and Attending them separately when they come to Town were not so discouraging, might again, by the judicious Assistance of Physic and Surgery, be enabled to taste the Blessings of Health, and be made in a few Weeks, useful Members of the Community, able to provide for themselves and Families.

The kind of Care our Assemblies have heretofore taken for the Relief of sick and distempered Strangers, by providing a Place for their Reception and Accommodation, leaves us no Room to doubt their showing an equal tender Concern for the Inhabitants. And we hope they will be of Opinion with us, that a small Provinical Hospital, erected and put under proper Regulations, in the Care of Persons to be appointed by this House, or otherwise, as they shall think meet, with Power to receive and apply the charitable Benefactions of good People towards enlarging and supporting the same, and some other Provisions in a Law for the Purposes above mentioned, will be a good Work, acceptable to God and to all the good People they represent.

We therefore humbly recommend the Premises to their serious consideration.

A. Morris, Jun. Reese Meredith. Amos Strettell. Wm. Coleman.  
 Jona. Evans. Jos. Richardson. John Armitt. Wm. Atwood.  
 Joesph Shippen. Jos. Sims. Jos'h Fisher. Anth. Morris.  
 John Inglis. Edward Cathrall. Nath'l. Allen. Thos. Graeme.  
 John Mifflin. Samuel Smith. Wm. Plumsted. Will. Branson.  
 Geo. Spottford. S. Shoemaker. Luke Morris. Israel Pemberton.  
 John Reynell. Saml. Hazard. Stephen Armitt. Joshua Crosby.  
 Chas. Norris. Saml. Sansom. Samuel Rhoads. Will. Allen.  
 William Griffitts.

Benjamin Franklin authored the petition but did not sign it. Hypothesize why you think he would do this?

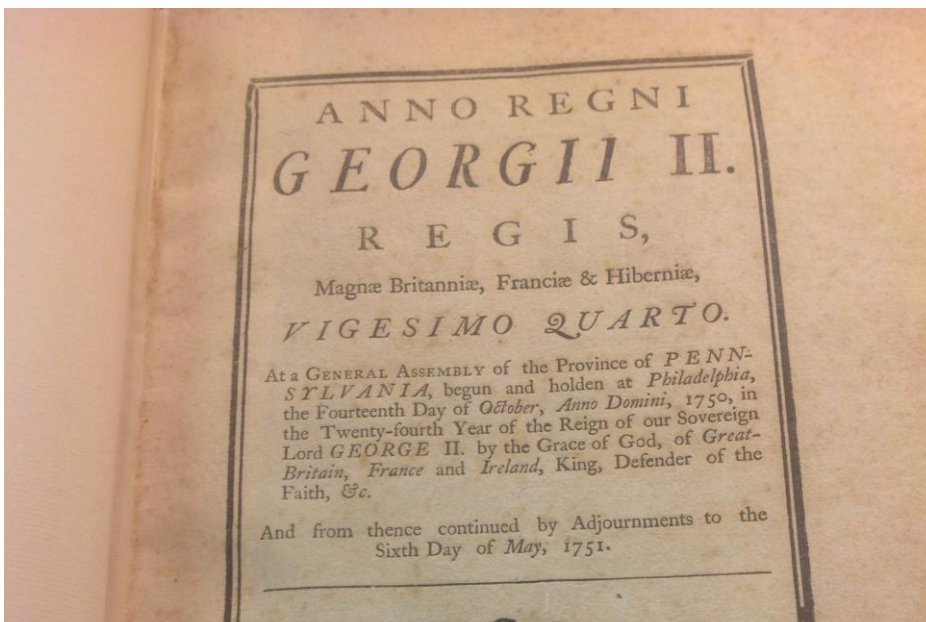
2. Show title page:Anni Regini Geogre II. Ask students if they have any thoughts looking at this page. Point out if students if they do not mention it, 25 years before the Declaration of Independence one sees America's loyalty and strong connection to

colonial  
 England  
 the King.

and

3.

from  
 of



Distribute a  
 reading  
 The History  
 The

Pennsylvania Hospital, 1751-1895 written in 1895 by Morton Thomas. (See attached appendix)

**PreReading** The teacher should read aloud the first paragraph and ask students to write down a question they have based on the information in the first paragraph. Using Whip Around the Room <http://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/whip-around> will share aloud their questions.

**During Reading** Place students in pairs, using the Paired Reading Strategy where students take turns reading aloud alternating paragraphs. Ask students as they continue to read, does the excerpt answer their questions from the whip.

Post reading discussion questions:

The reading includes Franklin's Account of the Founding the Hospital from his autobiography. From his account, what was the Pennsylvania's main objection to establishing a hospital in Philadelphia? (Answer: They feared the Hospital would only serve the city and not the entire colony of Pennsylvania, then the citizens would not financially support the hospital)

What was Franklin's solution to the problem? (Answer: Franklin invented the "Matching Fund")

Explain that the "Petition" that the class read was the result of Franklin's work.

4. Share the following from the Pennsylvania Hospital Board of Manager Minutes with students. The document describes Pennsylvania Hospital's first physicians' duties.

Board of Manger Meeting Minutes October 23, 1751

The Board were acquainted that Dr. Loyd Zachery and Dr. Thomas and PHeanus Bond were willing to give their attendance gratis in taking care of the sick as physicians and surgeons for the first three years; the President is desired to give them the Thanks of the Board for this generous offer and to request Drs. Graeme and Cadwalader, Moore and Redman to assist in consultations on extraordinary cases.

Resolved that the physicians of the hospital or such practitioners as are to perform operations shall first give demonstration of their skill and abilities in anatomy operations, dressings and bandage, before the managers and such others as the mangers may think fit to join with themselves to assist in judging of the performance of such practitioners.

Why do you think the first physicians of Pennsylvania Hospital agreed to work for no pay?

Why do you think these physicians are able to work for no pay?

Students may want to add information to their ongoing development of hypotheses.

5. Read aloud to your students the seal for hospital from Morton's 1895 history of the Hospital:

Dr. Thomas Bond and Benjamin Franklin, at a meeting held July 12, 1751, had been appointed a Committee to prepare a seal for the corporation. In order to secure a creditable work of art, Franklin wrote to Boston to have designs for seal prepared. Subsequently he submitted, for inspection of the Managers, four different draughts of the Good Samaritan, proper for Seal, which had been sent by the Engraver. After some slight alterations made by the Board, one was selected and approved. The seal, made of silver, was not received until February 1754. It was circular and two inches in diameter. The device was the Good Samaritan taking charge of the sick man, and delivering him to the inn-keeper, with the inscription beneath:- TAKE CARE OF HIM, AND I WILL REPAY THEE.

Read the story of the Good Samaritan to your students.

A man was traveling a long a road when he was robbed, beaten and left for dead on the side of the road. Two upstanding members of society saw him and crossed to the other side of the road to avoid him. A third man, the Samaritan took pity on him and put him on his donkey and took him to the nearest inn and paid for his treatment. The Samaritan needed to leave for business, but instructed the innkeeper to take care of his needs and left a sum of money to cover the man's expenses and said he would return to settle the difference.

Show image of seal and discuss the story of the Good Samaritan. See Attached image at end of lesson

What is the significance of Benjamin Franklin and Dr. Bond choosing this story to represent the hospital? Just like the "Apple" is the symbol for Apple computers, the Good Samaritan was the logo for the hospital, how did this image serve as a constant reminder to both staff and patients?

Students can revise and add to their hypotheses if needed based on the question:

Did the founders of the Hospital accomplish their mission and how?

Have students read the "Rules for Patients" to see if it correlates with the hospital's mission. Find evidence to support your hypotheses.

Rules Agreed to by the Managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the admission and discharge of patients 1752

1. That no patients shall be admitted whose cases are judged incurable, lunatics accepted nor any whose cases do not require the particular conveniences of an hospital
2. That no persons having the small pox, itch or infectious distempers shall be admitted until there are proper apartments prepared for the reception of such as are

afflicted with those diseases and any such persons should be inadvertently admitted they shall forthwith be discharged.

3. That women having young children shall not be received unless their children are taken care of elsewhere that the hospital may not be burthened with the maintenance of such children nor the patience disturbed with their noise.
4. That all persons desirous of being admitted into the hospital (not inhabitation of Philadelphia) must before they leave the place of their abode have their cases drawn up in a plain manor and sent to the managers together with a certificate from a justice of peace and the overseers of the poor of the township in which they reside that they have gained a residence in such township and are unable to pay for medicines and attendance to which an answer shall speedily be returned informing them whether and when they may be admitted --all persons employed in drawing up their cases are desired to be particular in enumerating the symptoms and to mention the patient's age sex and place of abode with the distance from the city of Philadelphia.
5. That all persons who have thus obtained a letter of license to be received into the hospital must be there at the time mentioned for their reception and bring with them that letter and must likewise deposit in the hands of the treasurer so much money or give such security as shall be mentioned in their respective letters of license to indemnify the hospital either from the expense of burial in case they die or to defray the expense of caring them back to their place of abode and that they may not become a charge to the city.
6. If several persons not excluded by the proceeding exceptions are applying when they cannot be received with exceeding the number allowed by the managers to be entertained at one time in the hospital the preference will be given when the cases are equally urgent; first to such as are recommended by one or more of the contributors members of this corporation residing in the township to which the poor persons belong: secondly to those who stand first in the list of applications. But if some cases are urgent and others can admit of delay those with the most urgent symptoms shall be preferred.
7. Notwithstanding such letters of license if it shall appear by personal examination of any of the patients that their cases were misrepresented and that they are improper subjects for the hospital the managers shall have the power of refusing them admission.
8. That at least one bed shall be provided for accidents that require immediate relief.
9. That if there shall be room in the hospital to spare after as many poor patients are accommodated as the interest of the capital stock can support the managers shall have the liberty of taking in other patients as such reasonable rates as they can agree for and the profits arising from boarding and nursing such patients shall be appropriated to the same uses as the interest money of the public stock provided that no such persons under pretense of coming to board in the hospital shall be admitted unless on the first application made on his behalf a certificate be produced from the overseer or overseers of the poor of the township in which he lives or has gained a residence in the said township and unless sufficient

- security be given to the managers to indemnify the city and hospital from all charges and expenses whatsoever occasioned by his removing hither.
10. That those who are taken into the hospital at a private expense may employ any physician they desire.
  11. That all persons who have been admitted into the hospital shall be discharged as soon as they are cured or after a reasonable time of tryal are judged incurable.
  12. That all patents when cured sign certificates of their particular cases and of the benefits they have received in this hospital to be published or otherwise disposed of as the managers may think proper.
  13. That no patient go out of the hospital without leave from one of the physician's or surgeon's first signified to the matron that they do not swear curse get drunk behave rudely or indecently on pain of expulsion after the first admonition.
  14. That no patient presume to play at cards dice or any other game within the hospital or to beg anywhere in the city of Philadelphia on pain of being discharged for irregularity.
  15. That such patients as are able shall assist in nursing others, washing and ironing the linen, washing and cleaning the rooms and such other services as the matron shall require.

#### Closure for Lesson One

Students will write a persuasive speech in the voice of Thomas Bond to the House of Representatives of the Province of Pennsylvania explaining why you want to start a hospital in Philadelphia.

Refer to resource on how to write a persuasive speech

[https://csuglobal.blackboard.com/bbcswebdav/courses/KEY\\_COM200/courseInfo/Outline%20Template%20for%20Comparative%20Advantages%20Pattern.pdf](https://csuglobal.blackboard.com/bbcswebdav/courses/KEY_COM200/courseInfo/Outline%20Template%20for%20Comparative%20Advantages%20Pattern.pdf)

Optional: Create videos of students reading their speeches dresses in colonial clothing.





Seal of Pennsylvania Hospital

The History of the Pennsylvania Hospital, 1751-1895  
by Morton Thomas (pp. 5 to 7)

The project of establishing a public hospital in this city, the need of which constantly became more urgent, was considered by the Association of Friends as early as 1709.

At a monthly meeting of Friends of Philadelphia, held the 25th of the ninth month of that year, the Records state :

Thomas Griffith is ordered to pay Edward Shippen to the value of Eight Pounds Sterling when there is stock in his hands, towards defraying the charges of negotiating matters in England in relation to the School Charter and one that is endeavored to be obtained for an Hospital, according to the agreement and concurrence of the Meeting some time past, and was accordingly to send over by Isaac Norris to request of Gov. Penn who was willing to grant the same ; but upon advice thought it proper to have the School and Hospital in one which this meeting desires may be moved again by James Logan, who is now going over to England.

This appears to have been the first effort toward establishing a Hospital in this community. Whether the intention was to inaugurate an institution for the exclusive use of members of the Society of Friends or a general Hospital, is, of course, at the present time, unknown.

Philadelphia being a place which could only develop in its early years by immigration, it was necessary to regulate the reception of persons who came by sea. The accommodations in the ships for passengers were insufficient, and too often, long voyages, poor ventilation, and improper food produced, among closely crowded passengers, scurvy, malignant fevers and diseases of a dangerous type.

In early Provincial times, a Hospital was usually considered as a place where lunatics and other sick persons were confined, so that citizens generally might be protected from contagious disease, or the irresponsible acts of the insane. The medical care of paupers and lunatics was not deemed of so much importance as it is now. Not that the physicians appointed by the authorities to serve the quarantine station were incapable or unsympathetic, but the time consumed in journeying to the Pest House was so great that only physicians of limited, or those who had assistants to do the work, could accept such a position. Those who did undertake to attend the Pest House, it appears, occasionally neglected their duties. When Dr. Thomas Graeme presented a bill for twenty years' services at the Lazaretto, the Assembly rejected the claim, "owing to his neglect of the service."

The Pest House on Fisher's Island was purchased by the authorities February 3, 1743, for a quarantine station for shelter and isolation of persons arriving from sea with epidemic diseases, but not as a refuge for the sick of the province. Even if it had possessed proper accommodations, it was too remote and inaccessible to be of any practical use to the citizens of Philadelphia. The want of a hospital located in the city

soon came to a seriously felt. The Almshouse was simply a place of confinement.

Willing physicians devoted much of their time to the poor, though many of these unfortunates were necessarily much neglected, owing to their homes being located in different and scattered parts of the city and suburbs, where they could not receive proper care.

No one was more sensible of these difficulties than Dr. Thomas Bond, a prominent physician of large practice in Philadelphia. He was a man of great benevolence and occupied a position where the necessity of such an institution could be appreciated. His profession daily brought him in contact with the poor insane, the sick, and the injured, so that he became impressed with the idea of gathering a number of these unfortunates under one roof, where they would be provided with the care, comfort, and individual necessaries required. After vainly endeavoring to obtain subscriptions to carry out his purpose, he sought Franklin and secured his assistance. With the aid of this powerful auxiliary, so influential and withal so methodical in everything he undertook, and by their combined efforts, the project was soon placed on a firm basis and the success of the undertaking assured.

Franklin has had ascribed to him the honor of being the originator of the Pennsylvania Hospital ; but he generously sets this error at rest, by a positive denial, in his autobiography. He says :

In 1751, Dr. Thomas Bond, a particular friend of mine, conceived the idea of establishing a hospital in Philadelphia, (a very beneficent design, which has been ascribed to me, but was originally and truly his) for the reception and cure of poor sick persons, whether inhabitants of the province or strangers. He was zealous and active in endeavoring to procure subscriptions for it ; but the proposal being a novelty in America, and at first not well understood, he met with but little success.

At length he came to me with the compliment that he found there was no such thing as carrying a public-spirited project through without my being concerned in it. "For," he said, "I am often asked by those to whom I propose subscribing, ' Have you consulted Franklin on this business? And what does he think of it?' And when I tell them I have not, (supposing it rather out of their line) they do not subscribe, but say, they will consider it." I inquired into the nature and probable utility of the scheme, and receiving a very satisfactory explanation, I not only subscribed to it myself, but engaged heartily in the design of procuring subscriptions from others. Previously, however, to the solicitation, I endeavored to prepare the minds of the people by writing on the subject in the newspapers, which was my usual custom in such cases, but which he had omitted.

The subscriptions afterwards were more free and generous ; but beginning to flag, I saw they would be insufficient without some assistance from the Assembly, and, therefore, proposed to petition for it ; which was done. The country members did not at first relish the project ; they objected that it could only be serviceable to the city, and, therefore the citizens themselves should be at the expense of it ; and they doubted whether the citizens themselves generally approved of it. My allegation to the contrary that it met

with such approbation as to leave no doubt of our being able to raise two thousand pounds by voluntary donations, they considered as a most extravagant supposition and utterly impossible.

On this I formed my plan ; and asked leave to bring in a bill for incorporating the contributors according to the prayer of their petition, and granting them a blank sum of money ; which leave was obtained chiefly on the consideration that the House could throw the bill out if they did not like it. I drew it so as to make the important clause a conditional one, viz. : “And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that when the said contributors shall have met and chosen their Managers and treasurer and shall have raised their contributions a capital stock of two thousand pounds value, the yearly interest of which is to be applied to the accommodation of the sick poor in the said hospital, and free of charge for diet, attendance, advice and medicines, and shall make the same appear to the satisfaction of the speaker of the Assembly for the time being ; that then it shall and may be lawful for the said speaker, and he is hereby required to sign an order on the provincial treasurer, for the payment of two thousand pounds in two yearly payments, to the treasurer of the said hospital, to be applied to the founding, building and finishing of the same.”

This condition carried the bill through ; for the members who had opposed the grant, and now conceived they might have the credit of being charitable without the expense, agreed to its passage ; and then in soliciting subscriptions among the people, we urged the conditional promise of the law as an additional motive to give, since every man’s donation would be doubled ; thus the cause worked both ways. The subscriptions accordingly soon exceeded the requisite sum, and we claimed and received the public gift, which enabled us to carry the design into execution. A convenient and handsome building was soon erected, the institution has by constant experience been found useful, and flourishes to this day, and I do not remember any of my political maneuvers, the success of which at the time gave me more pleasure ; or wherein, after thinking of it, I more easily excused myself for having made some use of cunning.

After taking up the project, Franklin soon became enthusiastic and was always a zealous worker in behalf of the Hospital. He was intrepid, forcible, and logical. His appeals supported by plain statements of facts were irresistible, convincing his hearers and readers of the necessity of establishing such an institution. The fact of its support by voluntary contributions, heretofore considered impossible, he demonstrated to be no longer a matter of doubt. In his “Brief Account of the Pennsylvania Hospital,”

Philadelphia, 1754, he makes the following statements :

About the end of the year 1750, some Persons, who had frequent Opportunities of observing the distress of such distemper’d Poor as from Time to Time came to Philadelphia, for the Advice and Assistance of the Physicians and Surgeons of that City ; how difficult it was for them to procure suitable Lodgings, and other conveniences proper for their respective cases, and how expensive the Providing good and careful Nurses, and other Attendants, for want thereof, many must suffer greatly, and some probably perish, that might otherwise have been restored to Health and Comfort, and become useful to themselves, their Families, and the Publick, for many years after ; and considering moreover, that even the poor inhabitants of this city tho’ they had homes, yet were therein but badly accommodated in Sickness, and could not be so well and

easily taken Care of in their Separate Habitations, as they might be in one convenient House, under one Inspection, and in the hands of skilful Practitioners ; and several of the Inhabitants of Province, who unhappily became disordered in their Senses, wandered about, to the terrour of their Neighbours, there being no place (except the House of Correction or Almshouse) in which they might be confined, and subjected to proper treatment for their Recovery, and that House was by no means fitted for such Purposes ; did charitably consult together, and confer with their Friends and Acquaintances, on the best means of relieving the Distressed, under those Circumstances ; and an Infirmary, or Hospital, in the manner of several lately established in Great Britain, being proposed, was so generally approved, that there was reason to expect a considerable Subscription from the Inhabitants of this City, towards the support of such a Hospital ; but the expense of erecting a Building sufficiently large and commodious for the purpose, it was thought would be too heavy, unless the Subscription could be made general through the Province, and some assistance could be obtained from the Assembly ; the following petition was therefore drawn, and presented to the House on the 23rd of January, 1750-51.

