

Virtual History Teacher
Benjamin Banneker Test

Name: _____

Instructions: You are playing the role of a history teacher who is grading the test below. See the questions and your “student’s” answers. Grade the quality of the answers on a scale of 1-4, “1” being a poor answer and “4” being a great answer. For each answer you grade, use your knowledge of Benjamin Banneker, or, reference the mrnussbaum.com online biography, to add the missing pieces.

Question 1: What did Benjamin contribute to the field of astronomy?	Score:
Student Answer: He made some predictions and knew a lot about space.	
Your Response:	

Question 2: What impact did the Ellicott Brothers have on the life of Benjamin Banneker?	Score:
Student Answer: They helped him a lot.	
Your Response:	

Question 3: How would you describe the relationship between Benjamin and Thomas Jefferson?	Score:
Student Answer: They seemed to be friends.	
Your Response:	

Answers:

Question 1: What did Benjamin contribute to the field of astronomy?	Score:
Student Answer: He made some predictions and knew a lot about space. Your Response: Benjamin wrote an almanac that not only predicted the occurrences of solar and lunar eclipses, but also the locations of the planets for each day of the year.	

Question 2: What impact did the Ellicott Brothers have on the life of Benjamin Banneker?	Score:
Student Answer: They helped him a lot. Your Response: The Ellicott brothers had a significant impact on Benjamin's Life. Joseph Ellicott lent Benjamin the books he read to learn about astronomy and mathematics. Later in his life, Andrew Ellicott hired Benjamin to help him survey the land that would become the District of Columbia.	

Question 3: How would you describe the relationship between Benjamin and Thomas Jefferson?	Score:
Student Answer: They seemed to be friends. Your Response: Benjamin and Thomas Jefferson seemed to have a relationship based on admiration and respect. Benjamin wrote Jefferson letters that expressed his disgust with slavery and urged him end the practice. Jefferson responded that he agreed with Benjamin and hoped that slavery would one day be abolished.	