Our Founding Fathers, Hard at Work

Artist: Jean Leon Gerome Ferris (1863–1930)
In the painting: Thomas Jefferson (right), Benjamin Franklin (left), and John Adams (center)

Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.
Our Founding Fathers, Hard at Work

Describe Jean Leon Gerome Ferris' famous picture on the attached page. Tell who is pictured and explain what is going on in the scene.

__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

Does this scene take place before or after July 4, 1776. How do you know?

__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

What is on the floor? Why?

__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

What do you imagine Mr. Franklin is thinking?

__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

What do you imagine Mr. Jefferson is saying?

__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
Describe Jean Leon Gerome Ferris' famous picture. Tell who is pictured and explain what is going on in the scene.

The scene shows Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin reviewing a draft of the Declaration of Independence.

Does this scene take place before or after July 4, 1776. How do you know?

This scene takes place before July 4, 1776. The three men are still in the drafting stage of the writing process. On July 4, the final copy was signed.

What do you imagine Mr. Franklin is thinking?

Answers will vary.

What do you imagine Mr. Jefferson is saying?

Answers will vary?