

DBQ - Benjamin Franklin poem published in colonial newspapers.

We have an old mother who peevish has grown. She snubs us like children that scarce walk alone.

She forgets that were grown with sense of our own, if we don't obey orders, whatever the case, she frowns and she chides and loses all patience, and sometimes she hits us a slap in the face.

Her orders are so, we often suspect, that age has impaired her of sound intellect. But still, an old mother should have due respect.

Poem Analysis

1. What does Benjamin Franklin compare England to?
2. What does Franklin mean when he says “she forgets that were grown with sense of our own”?
3. What specific policies might Franklin be referring to when he says “she hits us a slap in the face”?
4. What does Franklin mean when he says that her age has impaired her of “sound intellect”? What does this mean? Explain.
5. Why does Franklin say the “old mother” should still be treated with due respect?

Evaluation

What does the poem suggest about Benjamin Franklin’s feelings toward his mother country and how should the colonies respond? Justify with supporting evidence.
