

## Lesson Plan- Constructing Meaning from the Life of Bonfiglio Perini

Grade: Three

Objective: Students will learn about the life of Bonfiglio Perini and the company he formed which is headquartered in Framingham. They will also learn qualities that are necessary for success by “constructing” jigsaw puzzles to form words that describe these qualities.

Standards: **MA Social Studies Curriculum Frameworks**

3.7 After reading a biography of a person from Massachusetts in one of the following categories, summarize the person’s life and achievements. (H, C) business (e.g., William Filene, Amos Lawrence, Francis Cabot Lowell, An Wang);

3.13 Give examples of goods and services provided by their local businesses and industries. (E)

9. Define specialization in jobs and businesses and give examples of specialized businesses in the community. (E)

Pedagogical Strategy: Critical Thinking Skills

Materials: 6 jigsaw puzzles, worksheets

Time: 1 class period, 45-60 minutes

Procedure: Students are divided into 6 groups of about 4 students each. Although they will work as a group on the activity, each student must complete his/her own worksheet. Each student is given a copy of the worksheet, and each group is given a numbered envelope.

The students remove from the larger envelope, a smaller envelope which contains a small numbered jigsaw puzzle. Students work together to complete the puzzle which will reveal a word that describes certain qualities possessed by Bonfiglio Perini and his company which made them successful. The words on the puzzles are: skill, determination, cooperation, opportunity, vision, and adaptation. Students write the word on the appropriate line on their individual worksheet.

After completing each puzzle, the students take out the biography which was in the envelope and read it together. The biography describes how the Perinis used the quality described to be successful. After reading each biography, students are able to fill in missing dates or terms on the Timeline side of the worksheet.

When the group has finished reading and writing, the puzzle is taken apart and the biography folded back up and both are returned to the envelope. Groups pass on the envelope to another group until all groups have read all biography pages and completed both sides of the worksheet.

Assessment: A discussion of the open ended question will be led by the teacher after each group has completed their worksheets. The worksheets will be collected by the teacher and evaluated for accuracy and completeness.

The Completed Puzzles



## Skill

1

Bonfiglio Perini was born in the town of Gottolengo in northern Italy in 1863. As a teenager he worked as a gardener for a rich family in the bordering country of Switzerland. There he worked on building walls and driveways, and learned the skill of stone masonry. Stone masons make walls, walkways, and stairways from carefully shaped and placed stones.

For the rest of his life, Bonfiglio made sure that he used his skills to perform work of only the highest quality.



## Determination

2

Bonfiglio Perini wanted a better life for himself. At the age of twenty he decided to *immigrate*, or move to America. Because he could not afford a ticket for the boat passage to America, Bonfiglio worked in France for a year and a half until he had enough money for the trip. Finally, in 1885, he arrived in New York. There he worked as a **laborer**, or worker who does digging, carrying, and lifting by hand. The work was hard, but Bonfiglio knew that his hard work would pay off in time. He was determined to provide a good life for his family.



***Bonfiglio Perini***

## Opportunity

3

Bonfiglio arrived in America in 1885, just as the country was growing with new inventions and technologies. He heard that stone masons were needed in Massachusetts to work on new dams which were being built in order to create large lakes, or *reservoirs* for the city of Boston's water supply. Bonfiglio traveled to Massachusetts to work on these projects, using his masonry skills. Because he was smart and got along well with his fellow workers, Bonfiglio was made a *supervisor*, or boss on some of the projects. In 1900, he hired his own workers and worked on the many new roads, sewers and reservoirs being built in Massachusetts and New York. In 1918, he formed his own company and got many jobs on dams and highways.



*Perini employees working on the Cochituate Reservoir*

## Cooperation

4

Bonfiglio Perini and his wife Clementina married in 1890, and had ten children; five boys and five girls. Each of the boys worked for the company, starting at the age of six by hauling water at work sites! All five sons learned construction skills from their father, which was a good thing because Bonfiglio died unexpectedly in 1924. At the time of his death, Bonfiglio had been about to start a large highway project for the state of Massachusetts. The state wasn't sure that the company could do the job now that its leader had died. But Bonfiglio's son and company president Louis, just 22 years old, convinced the state that they could. Lou's aunt worked as secretary of the company, and two of his other brothers helped as well. Together they kept the company going. In 1931, they moved to Framingham.

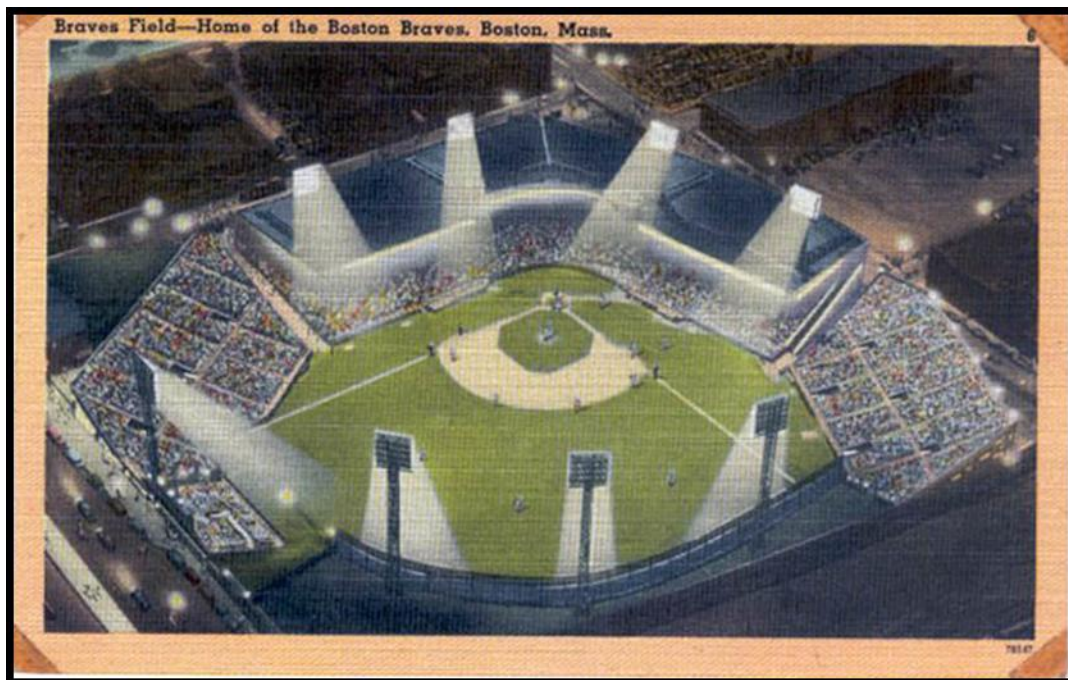


*The Perini Brothers Lou, Charlie, and Joe*

## Vision

# 5

*Vision* means having the ability to predict what might be needed or wanted by people. Bonfiglio Perini had this vision when he decided to come to America and then Massachusetts. In 1933 when the Perinis worked on the Boston- Worcester Turnpike (Route 9) right here in Framingham, they used the newest and most up-to date equipment, including bulldozers and concrete spreaders. Their new methods and equipment allowed them to finish the job in record time. In 1943, Louis Perini bought the Boston Braves baseball team. Within a few years the Braves were in the World Series! His team was one of the first teams to play at night under lights. In 1947 he helped start the Jimmy Fund, an organization that helps children with cancer.



*Braves Field at night (now owned by Northeastern University)*

## Adaptation

6

Adaptation is the ability to change when necessary in order to succeed. Over the years, the Perini Corporation adapted to the country's needs for roads, reservoirs, and buildings. They adapted to changes in building methods and equipment, always using the most up-to-date techniques in their building projects. In 1972, Bonfiglio's grandson David became company president. Today the company founded by a stone mason from Italy is worth almost a billion dollars. Perini projects include the Logan Airport and the Big Dig in Boston, the oil pipeline in Alaska, casinos in Connecticut and Las Vegas, and schools right here in Framingham. Whenever you pass their company headquarters on Union Avenue, think about all they have contributed to the community and the world, and all the qualities that helped them achieve their success.



*Perini Headquarters on Union Avenue, Framingham*



**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Why was the Perini Corporation so successful?

After working together to complete each puzzle, write the word that appears on the puzzle on the correct lines below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

Which of the above qualities do you think is most important to be successful? Why do you think so?

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**Directions**- Complete the following timeline by filling in either the missing year or word, using information from the Perini biography sheets

<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>
1863	Bonfiglio Perini is born in Gottolengo, _____
_____	Bonfiglio comes to America, landing in New York
1890	Bonfiglio marries _____
_____	Bonfiglio starts his own company
_____	Bonfiglio Perini dies; his son Louis takes over
1931	The company moves to _____
1933	Perini works on the Worcester _____
_____	Louis Perini buys the Boston Braves
1972	_____ Perini becomes president

**Directions:**

1. Take out the smaller envelope. LEAVE THE PAPER INSIDE FOR NOW!
2. Empty the jigsaw puzzle pieces onto one desk, and work together as a “construction team” to complete the puzzle.
3. Copy the word from the puzzle onto the correct line of side 1 of your worksheet.
4. NOW take out the sheet from the large envelope, and read it together.
5. Fill in any information you can on the timeline on side 2 of the worksheet.
6. CAREFULLY take the puzzle apart and put the pieces back into the small envelope, along with the numbered sheet.

Pass the large envelope to the next group when the teacher instructs you to.