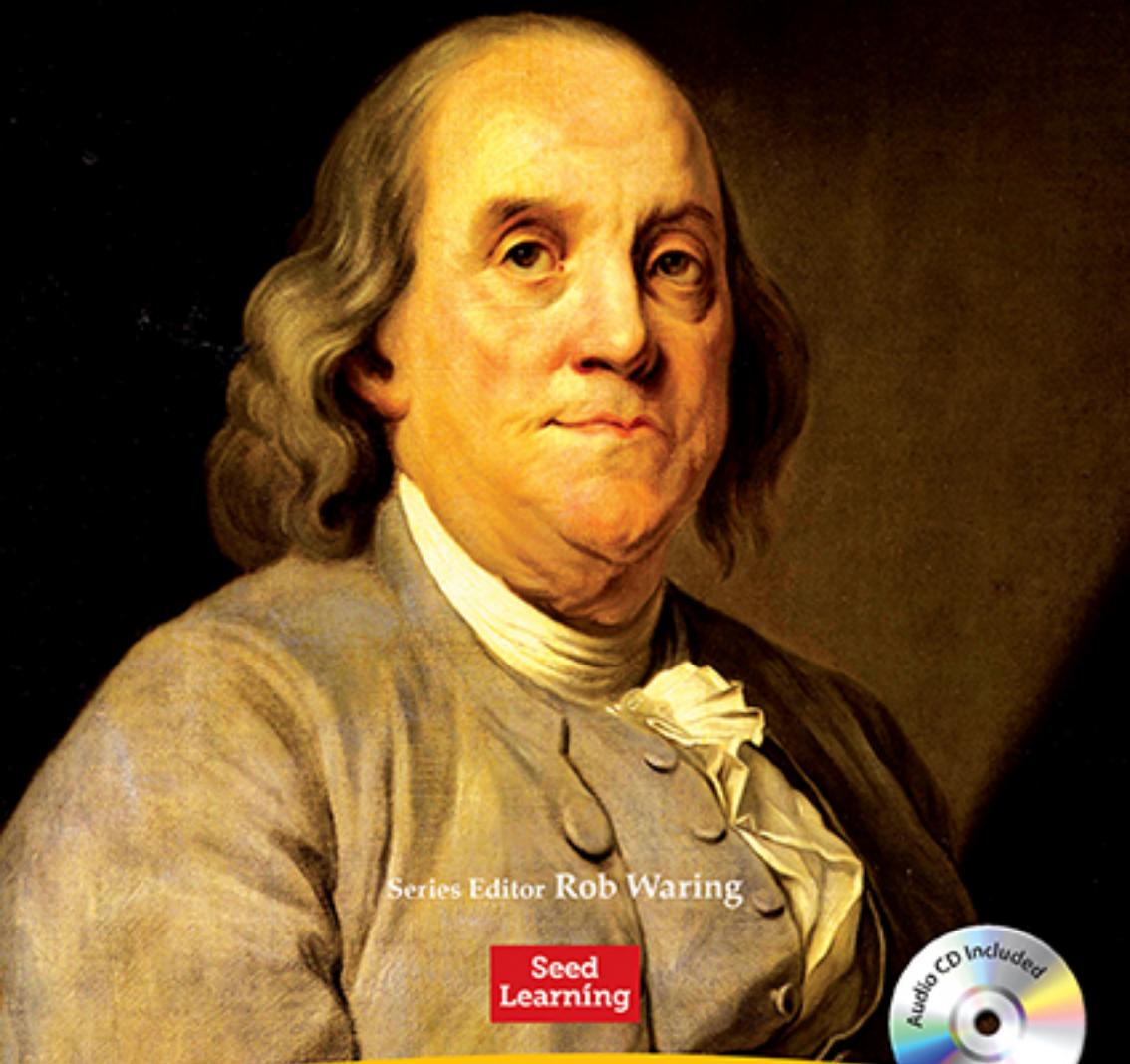


WORLD HISTORY READERS

Level 3-6

Benjamin Franklin

Jez Uden



Series Editor Rob Waring

Seed
Learning



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Benjamin Franklin

Imagine only spending two years in school and going on to become one of the most important people in your country. Well, that is exactly what Benjamin Franklin did!

He became famous for his clever ideas, his scientific discoveries, and his many inventions. But most of all, he is remembered today for helping to free America from British rule and giving America its independence!



In this book, you'll discover how Franklin helped America gain the stars and stripes.



Early Life

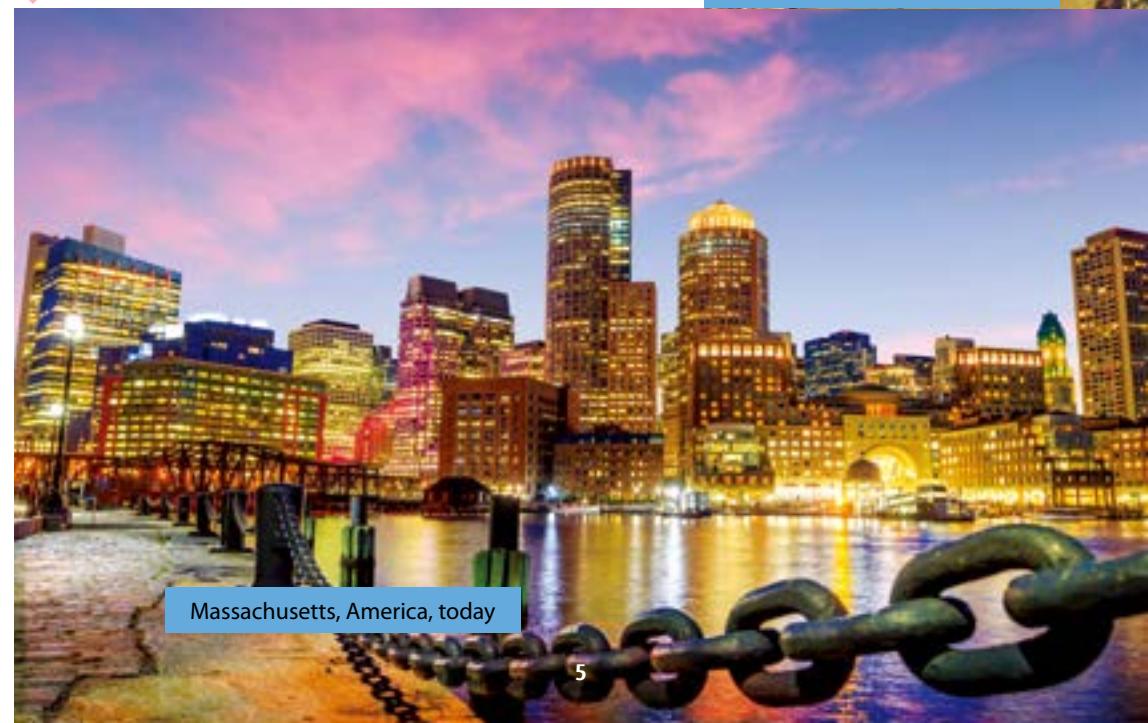
Benjamin Franklin was born in 1706 in Boston, Massachusetts. His family was very poor, and Franklin didn't go to school for very long. He left school to work with his father in their candle shop. Leaving school, however, did not stop him from getting an education.



Benjamin Franklin



Massachusetts, America, 1700s



Massachusetts, America, today

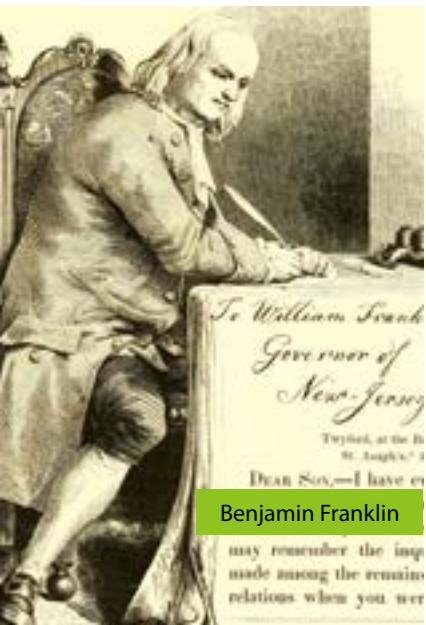
Reading and Writing

Franklin learned a lot from reading books. He loved to read anything he could find! Books were Franklin's school.

Franklin also loved to write. He had a very interesting method of improving his own writing. When he finished reading something, he would try to remember it and rewrite it all from memory!



Franklin loved reading and writing from a very young age.



Review Only

Making the World Better

Franklin was determined to improve the world around him. If something could be done, Franklin wanted to find a way to do it better.

This even included his own lifestyle. For example, he once read that a vegetarian diet was healthier than eating meat, so he stopped eating meat.



The 10th virtue: cleanliness

Franklin also wanted to be seen as a good example to society. He made a list of thirteen good habits, or "virtues"

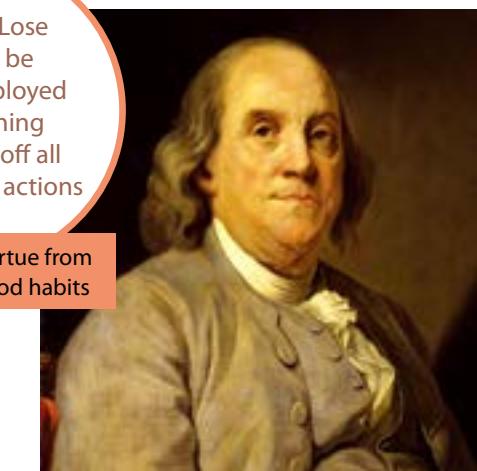
that helped to improve his way of life. He focused on one of them each week until he was good at them all.

Industry: Lose no time; be always employed in something useful; cut off all unnecessary actions

Franklin's 6th virtue from his list of 13 good habits



The 8th virtue: justice



The Junto

Franklin loved to share ideas with others, so he started a discussion group. This group met every week to talk about their ideas and discuss ways of improving the society they lived in. This group was called the Junto.

"Fish and visitors stink after three days."

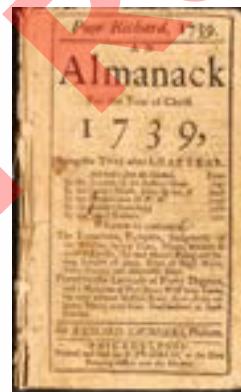
A funny quote from *Poor Richard's Almanack*



Franklin wrote many of his new ideas in a magazine that he called *Poor Richard's Almanack*. This magazine became very popular, and Franklin soon became famous in America as well as other countries.

"No gains without pains."

A quote often used today from *Poor Richard's Almanack*



America's First Newspaper

At the age of just 23, Franklin published America's first national newspaper called *The Pennsylvania Gazette*.

Just two years later in 1731, Franklin started America's first public library. This was a huge success. Franklin even said that reading books made Americans smarter!



A political cartoon that appeared in *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, 1754

America's first public library, Pennsylvania



Comprehension Questions

1. Benjamin Franklin...
 - (a) went to university.
 - (b) had a limited school education.
 - (c) never went to school.
 - (d) didn't read much.
2. Franklin loved to...
 - (a) travel and hike.
 - (b) read and write.
 - (c) swim and play tennis.
 - (d) sleep and cook.
3. Franklin wanted to be...
 - (a) a handsome actor.
 - (b) a powerful business owner.
 - (c) a rich and famous land owner.
 - (d) an example to society.
4. The Junto was...
 - (a) a discussion group.
 - (b) a newspaper.
 - (c) a gazette.
 - (d) a magazine.
5. Franklin was the first to...
 - (a) raise money for a hospital.
 - (b) open a public library.
 - (c) organize police patrols.
 - (d) All of the above
6. Franklin invented...
 - (a) something for swimming.
 - (b) special eyeglasses.
 - (c) a heater.
 - (d) All of the above
7. Franklin was...
 - (a) a scientist.
 - (b) a writer.
 - (c) a publisher.
 - (d) All of the above
8. Franklin did experiments with...
 - (a) wind.
 - (b) gas.
 - (c) electricity.
 - (d) All of the above
9. He signed the...
 - (a) Statement of Independence.
 - (b) Document of Independence.
 - (c) Treaty of Independence.
 - (d) Declaration of Independence.
10. His face appears...
 - (a) on a kite.
 - (b) on the US flag.
 - (c) on money.
 - (d) on TV.

Glossary

- **approve** to say yes to or allow something
- **congress** an elected group of representatives who make the laws in some countries
- **constitution** a set of laws for a country
- **contain** to have
- **document** a paper with official information on it
- **gazette** a type of newspaper
- **declaration** an official statement
- **independence** the state of being free from control
- **invent** to create something new for the first time
- **invention** something that is created for the first time
- **kite** a thin device flown in the wind on string
- **lifestyle** the way that a person lives their life
- **lightning** a flash of electricity generated between clouds or a cloud and the ground during a storm
- **member** a person who belongs to a group
- **society** the group of people who live in the same community or under the same law
- **stove** something that you cook food on or heat a room with
- **street lamp** a light on a tall post next to a street
- **vegetarian** not eating or having any meat
- **virtue** a good quality in someone's personality