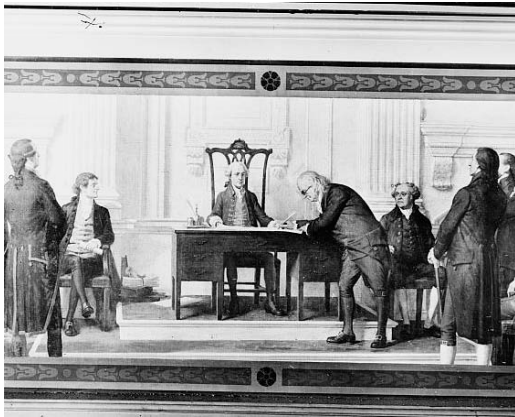


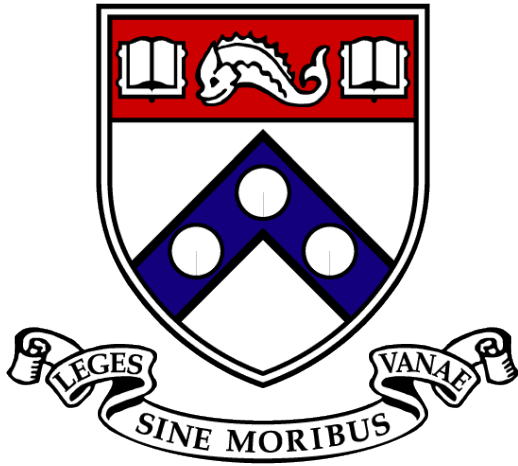
In 1743, while in Boston, he attended lectures on the subject of electricity! He was fascinated by the idea of an invisible force that could be “hair-raising”! He began experimenting with electricity, usually with success. Once, in front of friends, he electrocuted himself! He became world famous because of his experiments.



In 1787, Ben helped write the Constitution of the United States. This explained how the new government would be organized, after the colonies declared independence. Do you know which document declared the colonies to be independent of England?



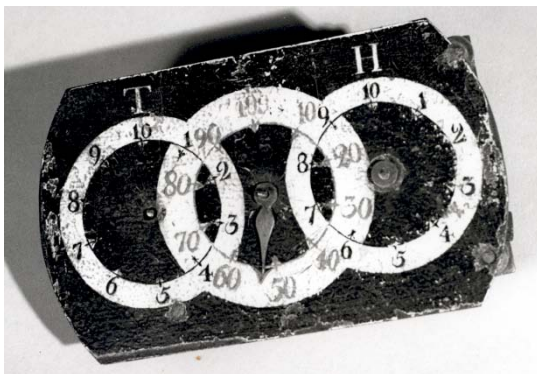
After the Revolutionary War was over, he negotiated a treaty with England along with John Adams and John Jay. Now there was peace between America and England.



He noticed that youth and children of the city of Philadelphia were in need of a good education. He helped establish the Academy of Pennsylvania. This is now called the University of Pennsylvania and is a very well respected university!



Ben realized how important it was to communicate with letters and newspapers between the colonies. In 1753, he became the Postmaster-General for the Northern Colonies, helping the mail get to where it needed to be! Do you get mail delivered to your house? You can thank Ben Franklin!



He attached an odometer (a device that can measure distance traveled) to a wagon. He could measure how far the wagon traveled. Ask a grown-up to use the odometer in a car to measure the distance from your home to your school!



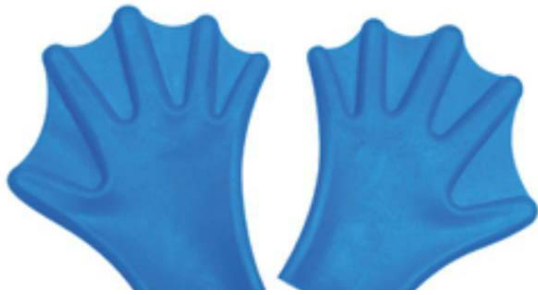
Ben invented the 4-sided music stand. This allowed four musicians to play and read their music together while looking at one another!



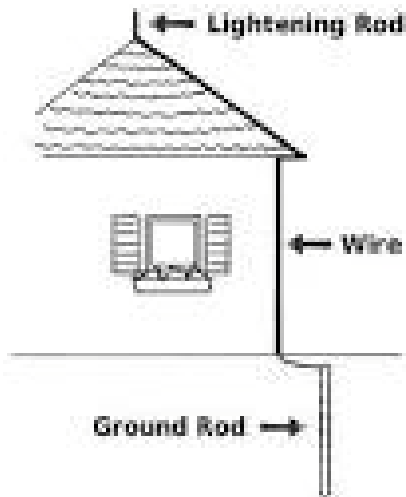
In the 1700's, many people died from illnesses that could have possibly been cured. There were few hospitals that were available. He helped establish a new hospital which is still curing people today, called Pennsylvania Hospital.



In 1777, Ben negotiated (came to an agreement) with the French for their support in the American Revolution.



He loved to swim! He invented “swim fins” for the hands so he could move more quickly through the water. He was just 11 years old when he invented these!



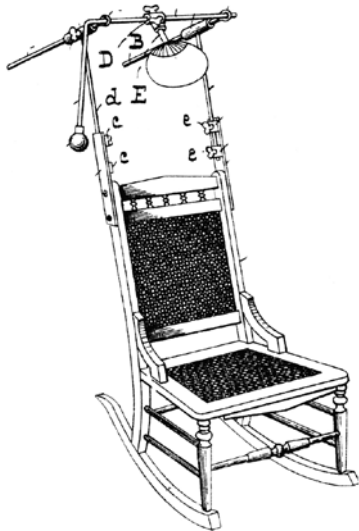
In the 1700's, lightning caused many homes to catch fire and burn to the ground. He invented the Lightning Rod to save many homes from burning.



Ben organized the first volunteer fire company in the City of Philadelphia, when he was 30, in 1736. It was called the Philadelphia Union Fire Company.



Ben had a large library in his home. He made a library chair with fold down steps to easily climb to higher shelves!



He enjoyed sitting in his rocking chair. He figured out a way to attach a butter churner to one rocking chair and a fan to another rocking chair so you could be cool and make butter while you were rocking!



He invented a wooden “long arm” to reach books on upper shelves of his library. You may have seen a device like this based on Franklin’s invention!

Public Monthly Spectator,
SILENCE DOGOOD.

In 1722, he wrote “letters to the editor” under false names. He did this because his brother (the publisher of the paper) wouldn’t print them if he knew they were Benjamin’s letters. One of the most famous names he used was “Silence Dogood”. What false name would you use to write secret letters?



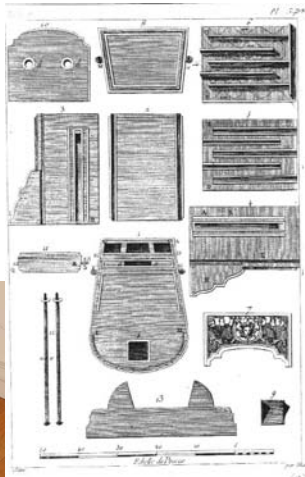
The streets of Philadelphia in the 1700’s weren’t paved. He helped get the streets paved and cleaned. This made traveling by coach much easier!



Franklin organized a club (called “Junto”) for young men in Philadelphia in 1727. They would meet once a week to read newspapers and discuss how to do good works to improve the lives of citizens.



Franklin served on a committee along with Thomas Jefferson and John Adams to write a “draft” of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. This Declaration was approved on July 4. Do you celebrate that day?



In 1740, he invented a new type of stove that could be inserted into a fireplace. This “Franklin Stove” made the house much warmer with less wood. He published the detailed instructions so that anyone could make the stove for themselves!



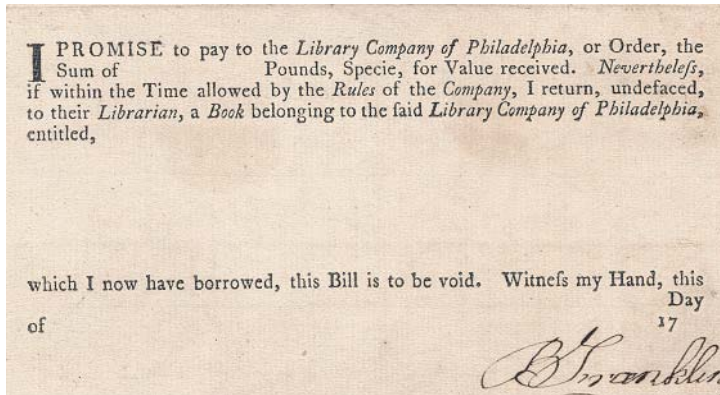
Ben made the first school chair with an attached desk top for an arm! Have you ever seen one of these?



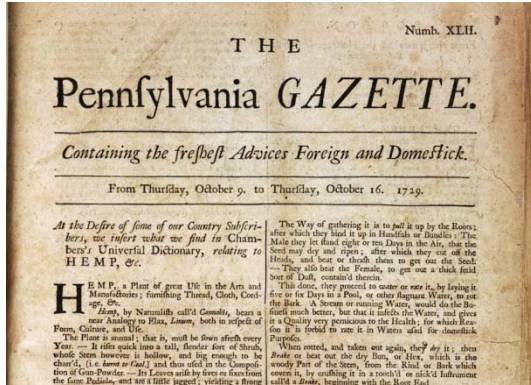
When he was 12, he started working as an apprentice in his older brother James' print shop. He worked long hours and didn't like being an apprentice. He didn't like having to listen to someone else's orders!



In 1723, when he was 17, he ran away from his brother's apprenticeship in the print shop to experience the world on his own. He first went to New York, then to Philadelphia.



Ben loved to read! He started the first library in Philadelphia.



In 1729, when he was just 23, he started publishing the newspaper called the *Pennsylvania Gazette*.



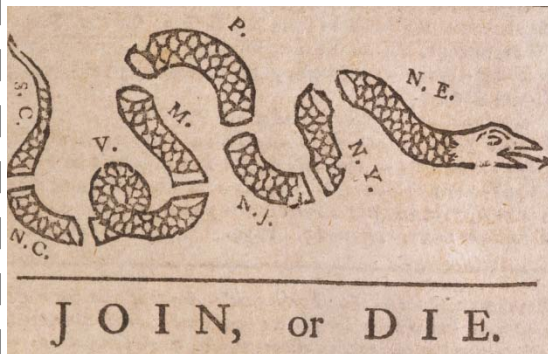
In 1752, he used a key, a kite, a metal wire, and a lightning storm to prove that electricity and lightning are the same thing! His son, William was with him.



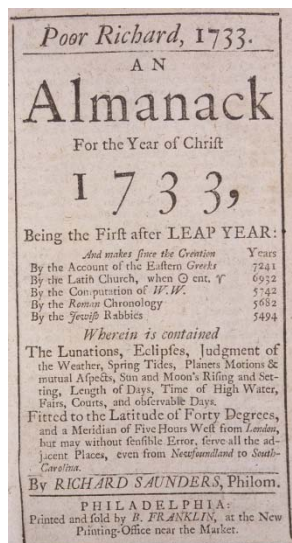
Benjamin Franklin earned enough money from his print business to retire at the age of 42! Do you know how old most people are when they retire today?



Ben really believed in exercise. He swam, walked, and lifted trays of heavy type to stay strong and in shape!



In 1754, he made the first political cartoon, “Join or Die”. It was a snake broken into sections, just like the separate colonies. What do you think that cartoon means?



Every year, for 26 years, he wrote and printed a book called “Poor Richard’s Almanack”. In it, people could find calendars, sunrise and sunset times, weather predictions, and sayings about how to improve yourself. People still enjoy reading his sayings today!



Ben invented a musical instrument called the armonica. It was made of 37 different-sized glass bowls. It's like a giant harmonica that you play with your fingertips!



Benjamin Franklin needed glasses to see clearly as he got older. He had to have 2 pairs of glasses, one to see things far away and one to see things close-up. He had to switch his glasses many times a day! He solved this problem by inventing “bi-focals” (hint: “bi” means two), a pair of glasses with one lens on the top half and another lens on the bottom!

Discussion Directing Prompt Card

Use these prompts to begin your sentence.

My card shows...

I think it belongs in this category...

My evidence/reason to support this choice is...

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Franklin's Character Traits Headings Card 1

Industrious – constantly or regularly active or busy

Hardworking – known for taking on difficult tasks and “stick-with-it-ness”

Practical – good at putting ideas or plans into action

Sensible – having, using, or showing good sense

Franklin's Character Traits Headings Card 2

Generous – free in giving or sharing

Team Player – works well with others to solve problems

Caring – to feel interest or concern

Thoughtful – considerate of the rights and feelings of others

Franklin's Character Traits Headings Card 3

Clever – quick in learning; showing wit

Problem-Solver – looks at a problem as something that needs to be solved

Imaginative – showing creativity, especially in inventing

Curious – eager to learn

Character Trait T-Chart

Student's Name/Group _____

Trait	Evidence

