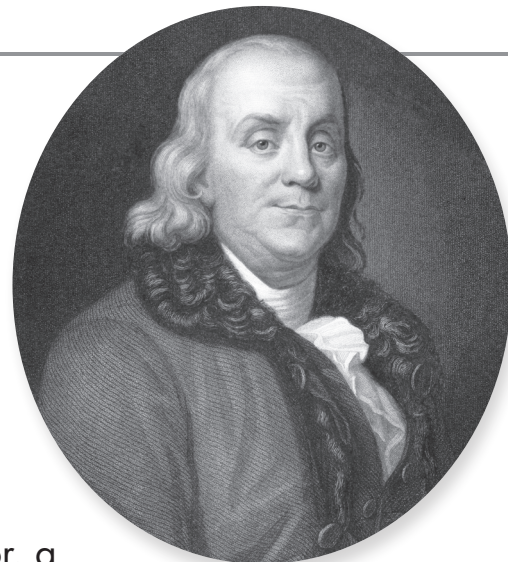


Benjamin Franklin



Benjamin Franklin was one of the founders of the United States. He was also a scientist, an inventor, a writer, a businessman, and much more. He had a sharp mind and many interests. He achieved many remarkable things in his lifetime.

Benjamin Franklin was born on January 17, 1706, in Boston, Massachusetts. His father was a poor candle maker. At age 12, he became an apprentice for his brother James, a printer. But James was a hard boss, so when Benjamin was 17 he ran away.

Franklin settled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He opened his own printing shop and started a newspaper, the *Pennsylvania Gazette*. He also published his own almanac, which he called *Poor Richard's Almanack*. His business made him wealthy and at the age of 42 he was able to retire. He turned his attention to other interests.

Franklin was very interested in electricity, which few people understood at the time. He began to experiment with it. In 1752, he flew a kite high in the air during a thunderstorm. Electricity from a bolt of lightning traveled down the wet string and sparked a metal key he had tied to the end of it. The experiment showed that lightning was a form of electricity. But it was a very dangerous experiment. The electricity could have killed him.

Franklin loved to tinker. He invented the lightning rod. It protected buildings from lightning damage. He also developed the first pair of bifocal eyeglasses and other useful devices.

When the American Revolution began in 1775, Franklin threw himself into the cause of independence. He was a member of the Second Continental Congress. Along with Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and two others, Franklin was part of the committee that was selected to work on the Declaration of Independence.

In 1776, Congress sent Franklin to France to seek military aid. He persuaded the French to send money and arms to the American army. Their support helped the Americans win the Revolution. While in Paris, Franklin also helped work out the peace treaty with England that ended the war in 1783.

In 1787, Franklin became a delegate to the Constitutional Convention. Its task was to draw up the Constitution of the United States. Franklin offered some valuable suggestions that helped make the Constitution acceptable to all the states.

Franklin died on April 17, 1790, at the age of 84. His memory is still honored by Americans today.

Name: _____

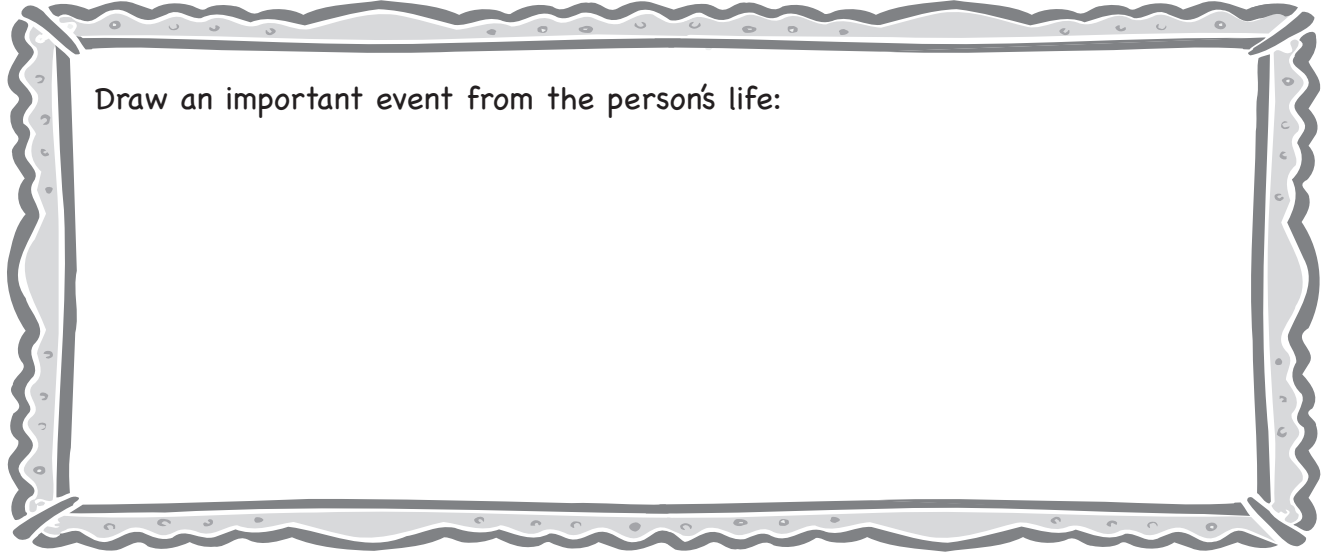
All About _____

(Person)

◆ Born: _____

◆ Lived in: _____

Draw an important event from the person's life:



This person is most famous for: _____



Five words that describe
this person are:



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Three important facts about this person are:

If I wrote a book about this person, the title would be:
