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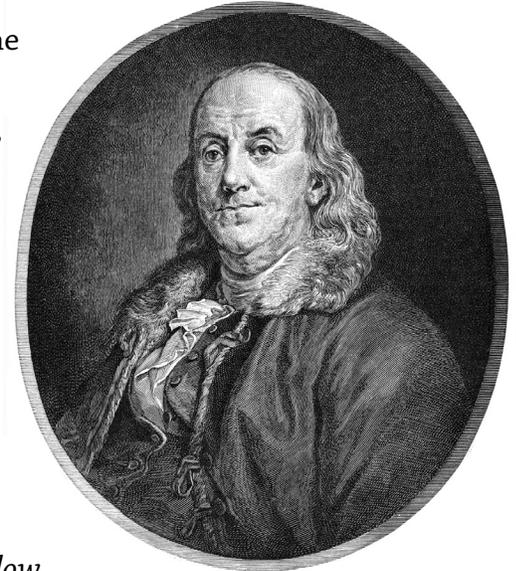
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The Life and Works of Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin was never elected president, but he became one of its ablest statesmen and influential citizens. A great wit, a legendarily hard worker, a charming diplomat, a tireless inventor, and a steadfast patriot, Franklin spent his life in service to his family, his community, and his country. What were Franklin's greatest successes, and what drove him to succeed? Let's start from the beginning!

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Find It!

Use the World Book search tool to find the answers to the questions below.

Since this activity is about Benjamin Franklin, it is recommended you start by searching the key words "Benjamin Franklin." Write the answer below each question or in the space provided..

1. When Benjamin was a boy, his father made _____ and _____ in his shop "at the sign of the Blue Ball" on Milk Street, and later in a bigger house on Union Street.
2. How did Franklin become one of the best-educated men of his time?
3. How many years did Franklin attend school?
4. How did Franklin happen to become a printer?
5. While apprenticing at his brother's print shop, Benjamin submitted a number of articles under the pen name:
 - a. Poor Richard
 - b. Silas Marner
 - c. Silence Dogood
 - d. Richard Saunders
 - e. Prudence Goodwife

***Users of the Advanced database can find extension activities at the end of this webquest.**

6. At 17, Franklin ran away to Philadelphia. Many tales describe the runaway apprentice trudging bravely up Market Street with a Dutch dollar in his pocket, carrying one _____ under each arm and eating a third.
7. What was Franklin's formula for business success?
8. Why did Franklin run away to Philadelphia?
9. In 1730, Franklin married _____, the daughter of his first Philadelphia landlady.
10. What famous newspaper did Franklin establish?
11. Historians credit Franklin as the first editor in America to publish a newspaper _____ and to illustrate a news story with a _____.
12. Every year from 1733 to 1758, Franklin published the _____, which became famous for its wise and witty sayings.
13. According to the publication mentioned in the question above, "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man _____, _____, and _____."
14. Name at least 3 of the institutions or improvements Franklin helped establish in Philadelphia, helping it become the most advanced city in the 13 colonies.
15. How did Franklin demonstrate to the world that lightning is electricity?
16. The great English statesman William Pitt told the House of Lords that Franklin was "an honor not to the English nation only but to _____."
17. In 1757, the Pennsylvania legislature sent Franklin to London to speak with who for the colony in a tax dispute with these descendants of William Penn living in Britain?
18. In 1766, Franklin's composure under questioning before Britain's House of Commons helped lead to the repeal of which measure?
 - a. Intolerable Acts
 - b. Stamp Act
 - c. Tea Act
 - d. Poor Richard's Almond Act
 - e. Patriot Act

19. What did Franklin do with his salary as postmaster general?

20. "Late in 1776, at the age of 70, Franklin set forth on the most important task of his life."
What was this task?

21. What was Franklin's last major public service?

22. Franklin died on the night of _____, at the age of 84. About _____ people honored him at his funeral.

23. Put these events from Franklin's life in correct order in the timeline below. Include the dates for each event.

- a. Became Philadelphia postmaster
- b. Appeared before the House of Commons to answer questions dealing with "taxation without representation."
- c. Described his experiment proving lightning was an electric spark
- d. Began publishing the Pennsylvania Gazette
- e. Appointed minister to France

Date					
Event					

24. Franklin was the only person to sign the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the Treaty of Paris that concluded the American Revolution, and the Treaty of Alliance with France. Put these documents in correct order in the timeline below. Include the dates for each event.

Date				
Event				

25.-28. As stated in Question 23, Franklin signed four of the most important documents in the United States' early history. In the boxes below, describe the importance of each document to the development of the United States.

25. The Declaration of Independence	
26. Treaty of Alliance with France	
27. Treaty of Paris	
28. Constitution of the United States	

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What's the Word?

Benjamin Franklin was more than a statesman. He was also known for his inventions and scientific discoveries! Use the descriptions below to find the words hidden within the puzzle. Multiple-word answers will appear without spaces.

- 29. This invention made rooms warmer using a fraction of the fuel.
- 30. This invention allowed both reading and distant lenses to be set in a single frame.
- 31. This invention made buildings safer during thunderstorms.
- 32. Franklin studied the characteristics of this warm current flowing in the Atlantic Ocean.
- 33. Franklin responded to critics of this invention by comparing it with a newborn baby.

X I H H M E R G U F Y J B V Y
 Y T S Q Y V N H Y P K N R Y N
 Q C E B Q O H P H Y M U R O G
 B T O U T T V U S J F E O H U
 U N V U Z S D R M R E L M R L
 J M Q D L N F X K S L H K U F
 Z K F D G I E O F A P L B B S
 H Y X L V L M F B D L V I T T
 S B E M R K L R R C R F W F R
 L I G H T N I N G R O D J U E
 G H W A F A J T G C D E D F A
 N L Z V T R K Y A L W H O B M
 S V W O M F L L P U K F B K P
 S W H M H C S H O A B D Z H E
 Q O T I R A T T O F T Y M D K

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You have been reading about Benjamin Franklin. Using the information you learned, answer the following questions with well-reasoned arguments. You may use the World Book Advanced database and dictionary to find facts to back up your conclusions.

Extension Activity 1

Many of the proverbs in Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanac* expressed Franklin's philosophy that foresight, wise spending, and plain living are not only good qualities, but also lead to success. In his own life, Franklin's thoughtfulness and work ethic contributed to the great success of his publishing business. Also, consider what other ways Franklin defined "success." Name at least two ways in which Franklin defined success then create a supported argument discussing whether or not Franklin's definition still fits the idea of "success" in today's world.

Extension Activity 2

Benjamin Franklin became the postmaster of Britain's American Colonies in 1753. Using Franklin's and other *World Book* articles, describe some of the challenges that a postal worker might have faced in the American Colonies. How were transportation and communication different during Franklin's time? What dangers and advantages might a postal worker experience when delivering the mail? Use this information to create a "How To" guide for someone who wants to become a colonial postal worker in 1753. Include tips, tricks, and illustrations that will help the new postal worker deliver mail safely and efficiently in the world of 1753 colonial America.

Extension Activity 3

Franklin ran away to Philadelphia when he was 17. Young Benjamin had become unhappy while apprenticing at a print shop owned by his older brother James. He also wished to escape from his brother's beatings, which Benjamin later called the cause of his "Aversion to arbitrary Power that has stuck to me thro' my whole Life."

What do you think Franklin meant by "arbitrary power"? Describe ways in which Franklin later sought to challenge arbitrary power during his service as a statesman and diplomat.

Teacher page

Answers:

1. When Benjamin was a boy, his father made soap and candles in his shop.
2. After finishing only two years of formal schooling, Franklin continued to educate himself by reading any book he could find. He taught himself the basic principles of algebra and geometry, navigation, grammar, logic, the natural and physical sciences, and he became conversant in several languages.
3. Franklin attended two formal years of schooling.
4. Benjamin apprenticed with his older brother James, a Boston printer.
5. c. Silence Dogood.
6. Loaf of bread
7. Franklin believed that successful people had to work just a little harder than any of their competitors.
8. Young Benjamin quarreled with his brother, who beat him.
9. Deborah Read
10. Franklin established *The Pennsylvania Gazette*.
11. Historians credit Franklin as the first editor in America to publish a newspaper cartoon and to illustrate a news story with a map.
12. Every year from 1733 to 1758, Franklin published the *Poor Richard's Almanac*.
13. "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise."
14. Answers will vary. Franklin helped establish a hospital, library, fire department, a system for cleaning and lighting the streets, the American Philosophical Society, and an academy that grew to become the University of Pennsylvania.
15. While flying a homemade kite in a thunderstorm, Franklin observed that a bolt of lightning struck a wire fastened to the kite and traveled down the kite string to a key fastened at the end, where it caused a spark.
16. William Pitt told the House of Lords that Franklin was "an honor not to the English nation only but to human nature."
17. Proprietors.
18. b. the Stamp Act.

19. Franklin gave his postmaster salary to the relief of wounded soldiers.
20. Franklin's challenge while serving as a diplomat in France is regarded as the most important task of his life. His work likely meant the difference between victory and defeat for the patriots. Franklin helped greatly in bringing the French into the war on the side of the Americans, perhaps his greatest contribution as a colonial statesman.
21. Franklin's attendance at the Constitutional Convention was his last major public service. Also acceptable is his leaving money in his will to be used for public works in Boston and Philadelphia.
22. Franklin died on the night of April 17, 1790, at the age of 84. About 20,000 people honored him at his funeral.
23. Put these events from Franklin's life in correct order in the timeline. Include the dates for each event.
 - d. Began publishing the *Pennsylvania Gazette* (1729)
 - a. Became Philadelphia postmaster (1737)
 - c. Described his experiment proving lightning was an electric spark (1752)
 - b. Appeared before the House of Commons to answer questions dealing with "taxation without representation." (1766)
 - e. Appointed minister to France (1778)
24. Declaration of Independence, 1776; Treaty of Alliance, 1778; Treaty of Paris, 1783; Constitution of the United States, 1787.
25. The Declaration of Independence expressed the colonies' reasons for rejecting British rule. It stated that the people of every country had the right to change or overthrow any government that violated their essential rights.
26. The Treaty of Alliance paired the Americans and the French in a military alliance against the British.
27. The Treaty of Paris, in 1783, ended the American Revolution, recognized the independence of the United States, and established the new nation's borders.
28. The Constitution of the United States established the form of the national government and defined the rights and liberties of the American people.

What's the Word?

29. This invention made rooms warmer using a fraction of the fuel. (franklinstove)
30. This invention allowed both reading and distant lenses to be set in a single frame. (bifocals)
31. This invention made buildings safer during thunderstorms. (lightningrod)
32. Franklin studied the characteristics of this warm current flowing in the Atlantic Ocean. (gulfstream)
33. Franklin responded to critics of this invention by comparing it with a newborn baby. (hotairballoon)

X I H H M **E** R G U F Y J B V Y
Y T S Q Y **V** N H Y P K N R Y **N**
Q C E B Q **O** H P H Y M U R **O** **G**
B T O U T **T** V U S J F E **O** H **U**
U N V U Z **S** D R M R E **L** M R **L**
J M Q D L **N** F X K S **L** H K U **F**
Z K F D G **I** E O F **A** P L B **B** **S**
H Y X L V **L** M F **B** D L V **I** T **T**
S B E M R **K** L **R** R C R **F** W F **R**
L I G H T N I N G R O D J U E
G H W A F **A** J T G **C** D E D F **A**
N L Z V **T** **R** K Y **A** L W H O B **M**
S V W **O** M **F** L **L** P U K F B K P
S W **H** M H C **S** H O A B D Z H E
Q O T I R A T T O F T Y M D K

Extension Activity 1

Answers will vary. Students may mention Franklin's donation of his postmaster salary for the relief of wounded soldiers; his refusal to patent or profit from his inventions; and his efforts to establish a free public library, a city hospital to treat the mentally ill, and a school for higher education.

Extension Activity 2

Answers will vary. Students may mention transportation challenges, such as poor roads. Students may search such *World Book* articles as Colonial life in America (particularly the "Transportation and communication" section), Postal services ("The history of postal services"), Transportation, and others.

Extension Activity 3

Answers will vary. Students may include Franklin's opposition to the Stamp Act and "taxation without representation," along with other efforts to establish the United States as an independent republic.