



## BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston on January 17, 1706 to Josiah and Abiah Franklin. Benjamin was one of seventeen children.

Educated for only one year, Benjamin could not enter the clergy as intended by his father, instead he worked with his brother, James, in a printing shop.

Newspaper articles was where he got his political start. Wrote under the name of Silence Dogood. Dogood was filled with advice and critical of the issue of women's treatment in society.

Junto, including members of diverse occupations and backgrounds, was organized by Ben to provide a structured forum for discussion. The Junto's Friday evening meetings were organized around questions that would discuss community needs and actions.

Apprenticed as a printer after running away to Philadelphia. He was sent to London for several months, but returned to Philadelphia and was noticed by the citizens as a diligent young businessman, and began getting government contracts.

Married his childhood sweetheart, Deborah Read, after her husband had run off. Benjamin had also fathered a child named William. Also fathered Francis and Sarah.

Invention, science, and experiments became his interests after retiring from the printing business. He invented the heat-efficient stove, swim fins, bifocals, and his experiment with his kite verifying the nature of electricity brought him international fame.

New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Massachusetts were the colonies that Ben represented as the Colonial representative to England. He considered himself a loyal Englishman. Franklin was surprised by America's opposition to the Stamp Act, and helped persuade Parliament to repeal the act. He felt that America should break free of England because of their wrongful dealing.

Franklin was elected to the Second Continental Congress and helped to draft the Declaration of Independence.

Representative in the Court of Louis XVI. Helped with the Treaty of Alliance between America and France. He helped secure loans for the colonies and the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783 after the American Revolution.

American patriot and founding father. In his late seventies he returned to America and began the President of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania. He served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention.

Not pleased with the whole Constitution, he admitted that it was an imperfect document but probably the best they could expect. He urged members of the Convention to sign the Constitution.

Knowing that slavery was wrong, Franklin became the president of the Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery and the Relief of Negroes Unlawfully Held in Bondage. He was 81 years of age.

Left this world on April 1, 1790 at the age of 84. Twenty thousand people attended his funeral.

Inventions that we benefit from: bifocals, lightning rod, Franklin stove, map of Gulf Stream, swim fins, glass armonica, flexible urinary catheter, odometer, and the long arm,

Notable quotes: Eat to live, not live to eat; After three days men grow weary of a wench, a guest and weather rainy; Three may keep a secret, if two of them are dead; Keep your eyes wide open before marriage, and half shut afterwards; We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately; Well done is better than well said; Fear not death, for the sooner we die, the longer shall we be immortal.

Websites: [www.pbs.org/benfranklin](http://www.pbs.org/benfranklin)

[www.ushistory.org/franklin](http://www.ushistory.org/franklin)