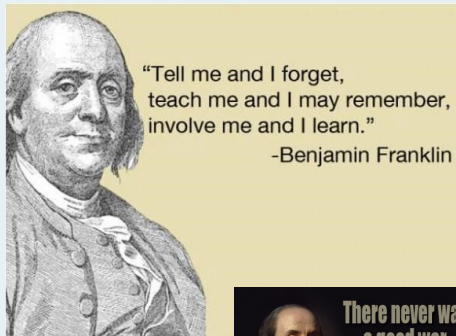


By Roshan Downey

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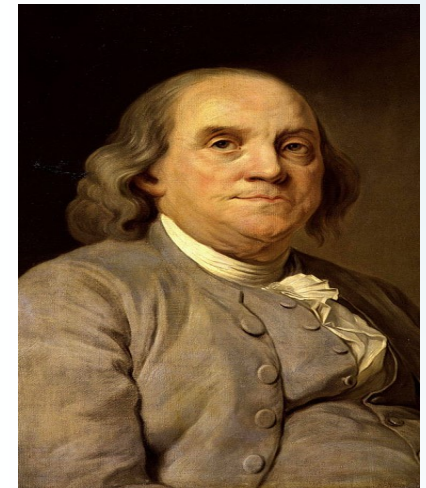


Discoveries/ Inventions.

- ◆ Benjamin Franklin invented bifocals eye-glasses in 1784
- ◆ At the age of 11, Benjamin invented a pair of swim fins.
- ◆ He is most famously known for his lightning experiment. For which he invented the lightning rod.
- ◆ On the musical side of things, he also invented the harmonica which was so popular in Europe that Beethoven and Mozart made parts for it

Source 5

Benjamin Franklin



Born in Boston, Massachusetts on the 17th of January 1706. He died in 1791.

Source 3

A Kite and a Key



Benjamin Franklin is most famous for his kite and key experiment on the 15 June 1752 in Philadelphia. Benjamin and his son William managed to attach a kite to a silk string and then tied an iron key at the end. They tied a thin, metal wire to the key and inserted it into a Leyden jar which is a container for storing electrical charge. Connected to the key was a silk ribbon. When the kite was in the air he retreated into a barn. When the storm cloud passed a negative charge onto his kite, to the key and was collected in the jar. Ben was holding a dry silk ribbon that insulated him from the negative charges on the key. After he moved his hand he received a shock because the negative charges were strongly attracted to the positive charges in Benjamin's body. Benjamin Franklin's experiment proved that lightning was in fact static electricity.

Sources: 1, 8 and 9

Childhood

Benjamin's father was and English-born soap and candle maker called Josiah Franklin. He and his first wife Anne Child had 7 children and 10 more with his second (Abiah Folger). Benjamin learned to read at a early age. Despite his success at Boston Latin school, he stopped school at the age of 10 to work full time in his cash-strapped father's soap and candle shop. At the age of 12 his father apprenticed Ben at the print shop, run by his brother James. In 1723 Ben flew Boston and looked for another printer after his brother became angry over the fact that Ben and penned his letters to a newspaper.

Sources: 2 and 4

Political influence

In his later years—1748 to 1791—Benjamin Franklin became a politician and was the 6th president of Pennsylvania. On the 4th October 1748, he was elected to the town council of Philadelphia. He was also appointed justice of the peace. The person who is responsible for making the laws. Benjamin quickly rose to power and influence and on August 10, 1753, he was appointed as a deputy postmaster general of North America. Benjamin also wrote an essay arguing for unification. With the essay he also published a drawing a snake cut into piece. The caption under the picture says "JOIN OR DIE". It was probably America first political cartoon. After a week of debate the so called Albany Plan of Union was rejected and never came into being

Sources: 4, 7 and 2