

America's Main Street

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

1. U.S. Route 66 is a good example of _____.
Ⓐ how places change over time
Ⓑ why people need good jobs
Ⓒ when railroads didn't exist
2. Another name for *filling station* is _____.
Ⓐ railroad station
Ⓑ gas station
Ⓒ highway
3. From 1849 on, ordinary people wanted to go west to California.
What were some of their reasons?

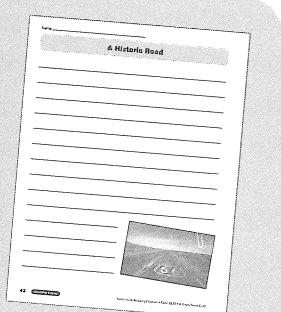
4. What is the main idea of paragraph 3?

5. Support the idea that places change over time. Use U.S. Route 66 as an example.

Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

People traveled U.S. Route 66 for almost 60 years.
Explain how it earned the name *Main Street of America*.



Benjamin Franklin, Printer

Level 1 ■

Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

America's First Citizen

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence.

Benjamin Franklin has been called America's First Citizen. He was the first Founder of the United States. But Franklin is also known as the "First Gentleman." Many people always called him a "gentleman."

Franklin learned the printer's trade from his older brother, Benjamin, when he was just 12 years old. James, the older brother, had only two years of school. He learned by reading books on his own. Sometimes Ben would go to the library to read what he could. He even wrote for the library! He liked to write for his brother's newspaper, the New Journal. He wrote stories about science and nature. He wrote in Silence Dogood. Newspapers at that time were more like letters. But Ben liked to write. He discovered what Ben had done. When he was 17, Ben was away in Philadelphia.

Ben had to work hard to earn a living. In a few years, he owned a newspaper and a printing shop. At 21, he married Deborah Read. She had written poems and short stories. A printer's clever spouse! One proverb said, "Love your wife, and she will make you a clever spouse."

Ben Franklin printed money for Pennsylvania. He wanted to prevent people from printing fakes. So he invented Pennsylvania paper. It had a special spelling mistake. It was hard to copy. Franklin put nature prints on paper too. It used real leaves to do this. No one was able to fake the tiny leaf veins.

Want to know
about America's First
Citizen?

Founders
printing
wit
silence
Almanack
olmance
proverbs
clever
prevent
fakes
veins

Tony Sargento Franklin works at a printing press.

54 Benjamin Franklin, Painter II National Endowment for the Arts

Barbara Franklin,
Author of *Ben Franklin*

Level 2 ■ ■

Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

Ben Works to Get Ahead

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence.

Ben Works to Get Ahead

Benjamin Franklin was a great man who enjoyed many events. He signed both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. As a young man, Franklin called himself a printer. Through his hard work, he became a printer at a young age. His father could only afford school for two years. Because he loved to read, Ben taught himself over 100 languages by the time he was 10 years old. Ben went to work for his brother James. Ben worked as a printer's devil.

Ben and his brother did not get along. Ben wanted to leave Philadelphia to go to New York. The newspaper owner, James, would not allow Ben to leave. Ben had to stay in Philadelphia to help his brother. People thought Ben's hard work would help a person succeed. People said Ben's work would bring him success. In fact, Ben got the streets of him pushing a wheelbarrow full of paper from his shop, Philadelphia's first printing shop.

In 1731, Benjamin began printing Poor Richard's Almanack. This almanac sold every year. The almanac had a poem, calendar, star map, and a proof copy of the short saying. It made a lot of money. Ben used all of the extra money to give clever advice, such as "speak thy truth."

Franklin also printed paper money for Pennsylvania. He put his own photo on the money. He used real gold and silver in the paper. No one could copy it. If someone tried to make fake money, it would not look real.

Events
Declaration of Independence
Constitution
stateman
printer
wheelbarrow
Almanack
alimanc
proverb
vain

Want to Know
Ben Works to Get Ahead

Events
Declaration of Independence
Constitution
stateman
printer
wheelbarrow
Almanack
alimanc
proverb
vain

Benjamin Franklin, Printer © 1992
Scholastic Inc.
Benjamin Franklin, Printer © 1992
Scholastic Inc.

Level 3 ■ ■ ■

Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

	<p>Name _____</p> <p>A Modest Man</p> <p>Fill in the circle to complete the sentence.</p> <p>Benjamin Franklin was a man who conducted many great things. Franklin was a Founding Father of the United States. He helped with the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. He was also a scientist and inventor. But he was a modest man who called himself a "humble person."</p> <p>Ben Franklin was born in 1706. Ben Franklin was the fifteenth of seventeen children. His father could not send him to school, so Ben taught himself to read. He learned to write at a young age, and that helped him learn more. Ben's mother taught him to count. This gave him another chance to learn. Ben learned to write quickly by studying good literature. He learned to read quickly by writing good literature.</p> <p>Maybe because Ben read quickly, Ben became a printer. He wanted to send him to learn the printer's trade, but his father didn't have the money. So Ben taught his brother, James. Ben was hard-working, but he became homesick. So he left home and moved to New York City. From there, he moved to Philadelphia. In 1723, Ben opened his own print shop. He printed books for the Pennsylvania Gazette, and Poor Richard's Almanack.</p> <p>Franklin printed useful and amusing information. In Poor Richard's Almanack, it had calendar, weather, and stock market predictions. It also had short stories, and practical advice for the home. Ben's advice was clear and often witty. Some of Ben's popularity came from the way he wrote. Clever phrases are short sayings that state a truth or give advice. People still use his proverbs today.</p> <p>Let's look at some of Ben's proverbs:</p> <p>Short, little, do much. The easiest question in the world, "what good can it do?"</p> <p>Benjamin Franklin Born Jan. 1706 Died April 1790 Author of <i>Poor Richard's Almanack</i> Printer Postmaster Scientist Inventor Modest Prolific Pamphlets Gazette Almanack Astronomer Practical Advice Clever Almanac Popular Proverbs Benjamin Franklin Born Jan. 1706 Died April 1790 Author of <i>Poor Richard's Almanack</i> Printer Postmaster Scientist Inventor Modest Prolific Pamphlets Gazette Almanack Astronomer Practical Advice Clever Almanac Popular Proverbs</p>		<p>Words to Know</p> <p>A Modest Man</p> <p>Declaration of Independence</p> <p>Constitution</p> <p>Scientist</p> <p>Inventor</p> <p>modest</p> <p>prolific</p> <p>pamphlets</p> <p>gazette</p> <p>almanack</p> <p>astronomer</p> <p>practical</p> <p>advice</p> <p>clever</p> <p>almanac</p> <p>popular</p> <p>proverbs</p>
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Assemble the Unit

Reproduce and distribute one copy for each student:

- Visual Literacy page: Benjamin Franklin Timeline, page 51
 - Level 1, 2, or 3 Reading Selection and Reading Comprehension page and the corresponding Words to Know list
 - Graphic Organizer of your choosing, provided on pages 180–186
 - Writing Form: A Proverb from Ben Franklin, page 52

Introduce the Topic

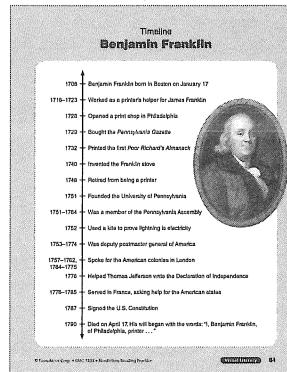
Review the timeline with students. Explain that during his long life, Benjamin Franklin looked for ways to be useful to others. He understood how important a printer's job was, because when he couldn't go to school, he had learned by reading.

Read and Respond

Form leveled groups and review the Words to Know lists with each group of students. Instruct each group to read their selection individually, in pairs, or as a group. Have students complete the Reading Comprehension page for their selection.

Write About the Topic

Read aloud the leveled writing prompt for each group. Tell students to use the Graphic Organizer to plan their writing. Direct students to use their Writing Form to respond to their prompt.



Visual Literacy

Writing Form

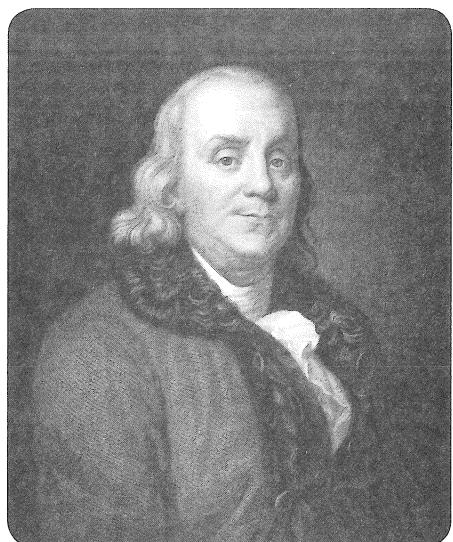
Timeline

Benjamin Franklin

- 1706 — Benjamin Franklin born in Boston on January 17
- 1718–1723 — Worked as a printer's helper for James Franklin
- 1728 — Opened a print shop in Philadelphia
- 1729 — Bought the *Pennsylvania Gazette*
- 1732 — Printed the first *Poor Richard's Almanack*
- 1740 — Invented the Franklin stove
- 1748 — Retired from being a printer
- 1751 — Founded the University of Pennsylvania
- 1751–1764 — Was a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly
- 1752 — Used a kite to prove lightning is electricity
- 1753–1774 — Was deputy postmaster general of America
- 1757–1762, 1764–1775 — Spoke for the American colonies in London
- 1776 — Helped Thomas Jefferson write the Declaration of Independence
- 1776–1785 — Served in France, asking help for the American states
- 1787 — Signed the U.S. Constitution
- 1790 — Died on April 17. His will began with the words: "I, Benjamin Franklin, of Philadelphia, printer . . ."



A Proverb from Ben Franklin



Words to Know
America's First Citizen

citizen
Founders
printer
witty
Silence
Almanack
almanac
proverbs
clever
prevent
fakes
veins

Benjamin Franklin,
Printer ■■



Words to Know
Ben Works to Get Ahead

events
Declaration of Independence
Constitution
statesman
printer
wheelbarrow
Almanack
almanac
proverbs
veins

Benjamin Franklin,
Printer ■■■

Words to Know
A Modest Man

Declaration of Independence
Constitution
scientist
inventor
modest
printer
pamphlets
Gazette
Almanack
amusing
practical
advice
clever
almanac
popular
proverbs

Benjamin Franklin,
Printer ■■■■

America's First Citizen

Benjamin Franklin has been called America's First Citizen. He was one of the Founders of the United States. But Franklin always called himself a printer.

Franklin learned the printer's trade from his older brother. Benjamin started working for James at the age of twelve. Ben had only two years of schooling. He learned by reading on his own. Sometimes Ben bought only vegetables to eat so that he could save up for a book. Ben wanted to write for his brother's newspaper. James wouldn't allow it. So Ben wrote a witty letter and signed it Silence Dogood. Newspaper readers loved it. Ben wrote more letters. But James was angry when he discovered what Ben had done. When he was 17, Ben ran away to Philadelphia.

Ben opened his own print shop in a few years. He printed a newspaper and *Poor Richard's Almanack*. The almanac had weather, star charts, poems, and proverbs. A proverb is a clever saying. One proverb said, "Lost time is never found again."

Ben Franklin printed paper money for Pennsylvania. He wanted to prevent people from printing fakes. So he misspelled Pennsylvania! Someone making fake money would correct the spelling mistake. It would be easy to spot the fakes. Franklin also put nature prints on paper money. He used real leaves to do this. No one was able to fake the tiny leaf veins.



Young Benjamin Franklin works at a printing press.

America's First Citizen

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

1. Ben Franklin learned the printer's trade _____.
 A in school
 B when he was twelve years old
 C after he ran away to Philadelphia

2. Franklin made paper money with _____.
 A his brother
 B vegetable prints
 C leaf prints

3. Did Ben Franklin value reading? Support your answer.

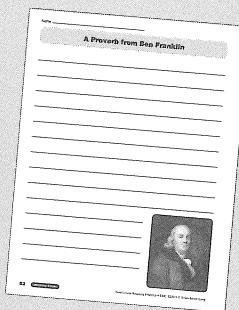
4. Do you think Ben made the right choice when he ran away? Explain.

5. What do you think of Franklin's ideas to prevent people from making fake paper money?

Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

"Lost time is never found again." Explain what you think this proverb means. Give an example.



Ben Works to Get Ahead

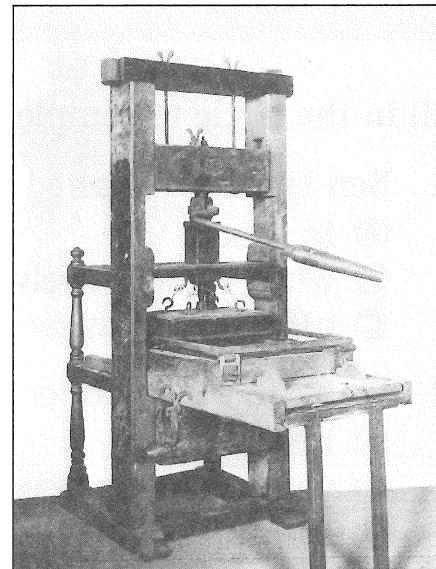
Benjamin Franklin was a great man who shaped world events. He signed both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. But even after he became a famous statesman, Franklin called himself a printer.

Though Ben Franklin loved learning, he had to go to work at a young age. His father could only send him to school for two years. Because he loved to read, Ben learned on his own. When he was twelve years old, Ben went to work for his brother James. Ben worked as a printer's helper.

Ben and his brother did not get along. Ben wanted to write for the newspaper. James would not allow this. When he was 17, Ben ran away to Philadelphia. In a few years, he was able to open his own print shop. He printed his own newspaper. Ben believed that hard work would help a person get ahead. People could often see him pushing a wheelbarrow full of paper along the streets of Philadelphia to his shop.

In 1732, Franklin began printing *Poor Richard's Almanack*. Thousands of copies were sold every year. The almanac had weather, calendars, star charts, poems, and proverbs. A proverb is a short saying. It states a truth or gives clever advice, such as "Speak little, do much."

Franklin also printed paper money for Pennsylvania. He put leaf prints on the money. He used real leaves to do this. The tiny veins of the leaves could not be copied. If someone tried to make fake money, it would not look real.



This printing press was probably used by Ben Franklin.



Franklin used leaf prints to solve the problem of people making fake money.

Ben Works to Get Ahead

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

1. A proverb is a _____.
 A clever saying
 B calendar
 C star chart
2. Franklin printed leaves on paper money to _____.
 A make it look nice
 B save time
 C prevent fakes
3. What do you think people thought about Ben Franklin when they saw him with his wheelbarrow?

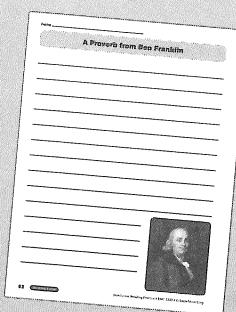
4. Did Ben make the right choice in running away to Philadelphia? Explain.

5. Why do you think thousands of copies of *Poor Richard's Almanack* sold every year?

Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

“Speak little, do much.” Explain what you think this proverb means. How was Franklin an example of this?



A Modest Man

Benjamin Franklin was a man who accomplished many great things. Franklin was a Founding Father of the United States. He signed both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. He was also a scientist and inventor. But he was a modest man who called himself a printer.

Born in Boston in 1706, Ben Franklin was the fifteenth of seventeen children. His father could not send him to school for longer than two years. Ben had to go to work at a young age, but that didn't stop him from learning. He loved to read, and he learned by reading every chance he could get. He also taught himself to write clearly by studying good writers.

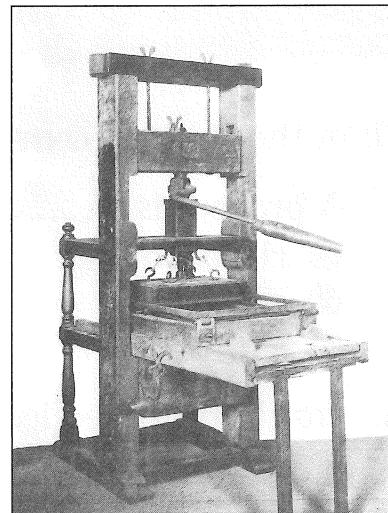
Maybe because Ben loved reading, his father decided to send him to learn the printer's trade. When he was twelve, Ben went to work in the print shop of his older brother James. Ben was hard-working, but he and James didn't get along. In 1723, when Ben was 17, he ran away to Philadelphia. In a few years, Ben opened his own print shop. He printed pamphlets, the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, and *Poor Richard's Almanack*.

Franklin printed useful and amusing information in *Poor Richard's Almanack*. It had calendars, weather, star charts, and practical advice for the home. Ben's clever wit and clear writing made the almanac popular. So did the proverbs he liked to include. Proverbs are short sayings that state a truth or give advice. People still use his proverbs today.

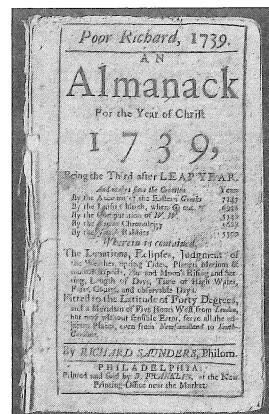
Lost time is never found again.

Speak little, do much.

*The noblest question in the world is,
"What good can I do in it?"*



This printing press was probably used by Ben Franklin.



Ben Franklin made up the name Richard Saunders to use instead of his own. *Poor Richard's Almanack* was printed every year from 1732 to 1757.