

Grade 3

Reading - Autobiography

An American Dream: The Story of Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston on January 17, 1706. He was the fifteenth of seventeen children in his family, which means he had lots of brothers and sisters to play with! As a boy, he loved reading books. He would read anything he could get his hands on, even when he was supposed to be working in his father's candle shop.

When he was twelve, Ben started working with his brother James, who was a printer. He learned to set type and run a printing press. But, after a disagreement with his brother, he left Boston and went to Philadelphia. With hard work and determination, he became a successful printer and newspaper publisher in this new city.

As he grew older, Benjamin Franklin became known for many other things. He was an inventor and created things like the lightning rod, bifocal glasses, and even the first public library! He was also a writer and wrote many books and articles.

Franklin believed in helping his community. He helped establish the first fire department and the University of Pennsylvania. He was also a politician and helped in the making of the U.S. Constitution, which is an important document for our country.

Benjamin Franklin wasn't just famous in America. He traveled to Europe, made friends with people in other countries, and helped the United States build relationships with them.

Ben passed away in 1790, but his legacy lives on. Today, we remember him as a brilliant mind, a kind heart, and a great American hero.

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. Where was Benjamin Franklin born?

- A. Philadelphia
- B. New York
- C. Boston
- D. Washington D.C.

2. What did Ben's father do?

- A. He was a printer.
- B. He owned a candle shop.
- C. He was an inventor.
- D. He was a politician.

3. What is one invention by Benjamin Franklin?

- A. Telephone
- B. Lightning rod
- C. Computer
- D. Car

4. Who did Benjamin Franklin have a disagreement with which made him leave Boston?

- A. His father
- B. His best friend
- C. His teacher
- D. His brother James

5. What important document did Franklin help in making?

- A. The Bill of Rights
- B. The Declaration of Independence
- C. The U.S. Constitution
- D. The Emancipation Proclamation

Answers and Explanations:

1. C Boston

The passage states that "Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston on January 17, 1706."

2. B He owned a candle shop.

The passage mentions that young Ben was supposed to be "working in his father's candle shop."

3. B Lightning rod

The passage says he invented the "lightning rod" among other things.

4. D His brother James

The passage tells us that he had a disagreement with "his brother James."

5. C The U.S. Constitution

The passage states that Franklin "helped in the making of the U.S. Constitution."