



## **POST ROADS**

Post roads started in 1673. They were used to carry official government mail. The first one connected New York City and Boston.

Benjamin Franklin had many jobs. One of them was postmaster. He started as a postmaster in Philadelphia, the city where he lived. Soon, he became the head of the post office for the colonies.

As the head postmaster, he made many changes to the postal system. He made shorter routes for mail delivery between cities. These routes were called "post roads." How much it cost to mail a letter depended upon how many miles the letter had to go to be delivered. Franklin had stone markers placed on the post roads in order to keep track of the miles between towns. These markers became known as milestones or mile markers. He also ordered his post riders to travel the post roads at night so that mail delivery would be faster. His changes made mail delivery faster and more organized.

A lot of post offices and post roads were made after the colonies became the United States. Very soon all roads became known as post roads.

Mile markers are still used today to help travelers know how far they have gone or how much further they need to go. See if you can find mile markers along the highways you travel.