

HOCPP 1058

In The Hands of A Child

Grades 3 - 8



Project Pack

Benjamin Franklin



B. Franklin



A Ready-to- Assemble
Hands-On Unit
Including Reproducibles

Benjamin Franklin

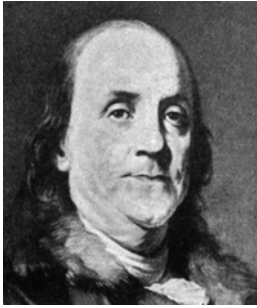
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Benjamin Franklin



A lot of people know who invented the lightning rod, but few people know who invented brighter streetlights, bifocal glasses, swim fins or library seats with built in stairs! Benjamin

Franklin invented them all! In fact, Benjamin Franklin loved to invent things and his list of inventions is numerous. In addition to being an inventor, Ben Franklin was a diplomat, statesman, candle maker, an accomplished swimmer, and his face is on the \$100 bill.

Benjamin Franklin was born on January 17, 1706 in Boston, Massachusetts, to Josiah and Abiah Franklin. His father was **tallow chandler** (he made soap and candles) who immigrated to the United States from England. Ben had 16 siblings and he was the youngest son.



Education

Benjamin Franklin only had two years of school education. After he reached the age of 10, Ben's father needed his help in the family's candle and soap making shop. Ben stayed home from school and cut wicks and melted tallow in the shop.

But Ben's education did not stop when he stopped going to school. Ben taught himself by reading as many books as he could, asking lots of question, and writing, and thinking. Ben also taught himself algebra, geometry, navigation, grammar, and science. He studied foreign languages like French, Spanish, German, Italian, and Latin. Ben Franklin was one of the best-educated people of his time.

Benjamin Franklin Timeline

- **1706:** Born
- **1715:** Final year of schooling
- **1717:** Invented swim fins for his hands
- **1718:** Printing Apprentice for his brother James
- **1723:** Ran away to Philadelphia
- **1724:** Traveled to London, England to buy printing equipment. When he found himself stranded and without money, he went to work as a printer.
- **1726:** Returned to Philadelphia
- **1728:** Son William born (mother unknown)
- **1729:** Purchased the *Philadelphia Gazette*
- **1730:** Married Deborah Read
- **1732:** son Francis born
- **1736:** son Francis died of smallpox
- **1737:** Appointed Postmaster of Philadelphia
- **1741:** Advertised the Franklin stove
- **1743:** Daughter Sally born
- **1746:** Began experimenting with electricity
- **1752:** Conducted kite experiment
- **1753:** Received honorary degrees from Yale and Harvard. Appointed Deputy Postmaster of U.S.
- **1762:** Mapped postal routes in the colonies. Invented the glass harmonica
- **1764-65:** Charted the Gulf Stream
- **1766:** Examined in House of Commons for support of Stamp Act
- **1771:** Began writing Autobiography
- **1774:** Wife, Deborah, died
- **1775:** Elected Postmaster General of the colonies

Among his other accomplishments, Ben was an **author**. Two of his works were published, *Sayings of Poor Richard* and *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*. His **autobiography** was the first **secular** biography published in the United States.

Civic Leader

In 1737, Benjamin Franklin became Philadelphia's postmaster. By 1753, he had done such a good job that he was appointed to deputy postmaster general for all the colonies. During his time as postmaster, Franklin introduced many changes. He hired more post riders and had his **couriers** ride night and day to help speed up mail delivery. He also found faster packet ships to deliver mail to other countries and he helped Canada set up their own post offices.

In 1775, the Continental Congress chose Benjamin Franklin to be the postmaster general. In his new position, Franklin organized a new postal system and set up mail routes from Portland, Maine to Savannah, Georgia. This reorganization made the postal service both more efficient and profitable. Franklin gave the salary he made as postmaster general to wounded soldiers of the Revolution.



Benjamin Franklin was always working to help Philadelphia become a better city. He helped to establish America's first city hospital, organized the first fire department, helped to reform the police department, started a program to pave and light the city streets, founded the academy that grew into the University of Pennsylvania, and helped to establish the first subscription library in the American Colonies.

Benjamin returned to the United States from France in 1785 and spent the next two years as president of the executive council of Pennsylvania, which would be like a **governor** today. In 1787, he was elected president of the First Antislavery Society in America. His last public act was signing an appeal to Congress for the **abolition** of slavery.

Quotes by Benjamin Franklin

"Eat to live, and not live to eat."

"Necessity never made a good bargain."

"Three may keep a secret if two of them are dead."

"What is serving God? Tis doing Good to Man."

"He that lieth down with Dogs, shall rise up with the Fleas."

"God helps them that help themselves."

"The worst wheel of a cart makes the most noise."

"When the well's dry, we know the worth of water."

"Fish and visitors stink after three days."

"Well done is better than well said."

"Be slow in chusing a friend, slower in changing."

"People who are wrapped up in themselves make small packages."

"There was never a good war or a bad peace."

"Work as if you were to live a hundred years, pray as if you were to die tomorrow."

- The Franklin Stove: At that time in history there were many fires when sparks flew out of fireplaces. The Franklin stove produced more heat, used less wood and was safer.
- Glass Armonica: A Glass Aarmonica is a musical instrument made of rotating glass cylinders.
- Medical Catheter: This was invented by Ben in order to treat his brother who was ill.
- Swimming Paddles: Ben used wood to make paddles for his hands and feet. They didn't work because they were too heavy. Today they are made out of rubber and we call them swim fins.
- Odometer: An odometer counted the number of times a wheel turned to get the distance for mail routes.



Ben's many experiments with electricity led him to develop new words and terminology that referred to the ideas and theories of electricity. The terms he used during his experiments are still used in today's language. Those words include battery, charge, condenser, conductor, plus, minus, positively, negatively, and armature. (See vocabulary list for definitions of these

terms).

Honoring Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin died April 17, 1790 at the age of 84. Over 20,000 people attended his funeral.

January 17, 2006 marks the 300th Birthday of Benjamin Franklin. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania will celebrate this day with events that highlight his accomplishments. The city will celebrate Benjamin Franklin the entire year.



Throughout the years, Benjamin Franklin has been honored in many ways. His face has been seen on postage stamps, coins, and the \$100 bill. The University of Pennsylvania named its athletic field after him. In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, there is the Franklin Institute for Science Museum located on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

Ralph Archbold

During the summer if you look under the mulberry tree at Franklin Court (the site of Ben Franklin's home) you might just meet Mr. Ralph Archbold. Each summer day, Mr. Archbold dresses in Colonial clothing and becomes Ben Franklin. It is under the mulberry tree that he tells stories of Ben's home to visitors.

Mr. Archbold has been a part of more than 7,000 school programs and has met six presidents, including Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, and Bill Clinton.

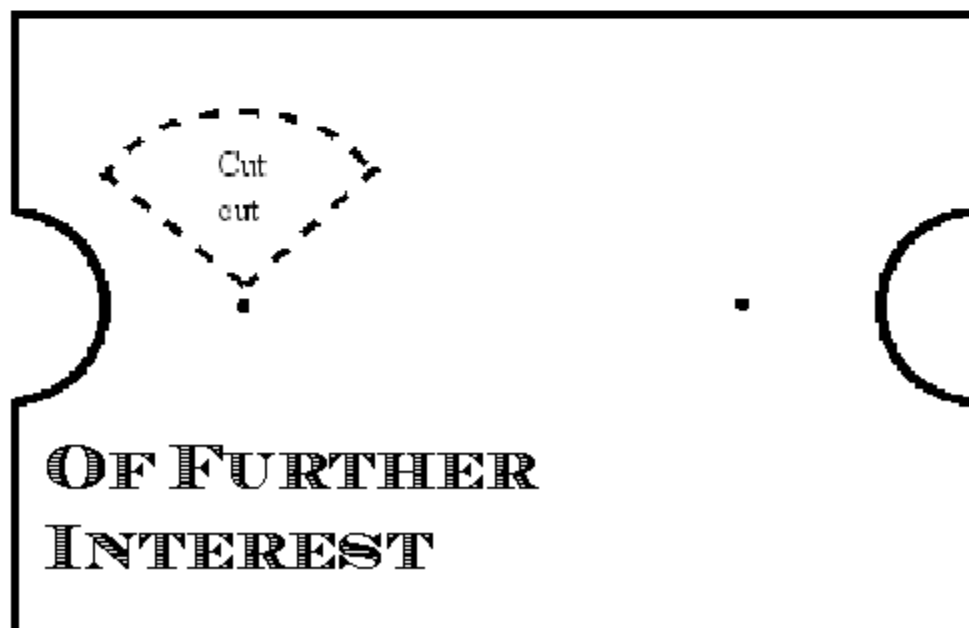
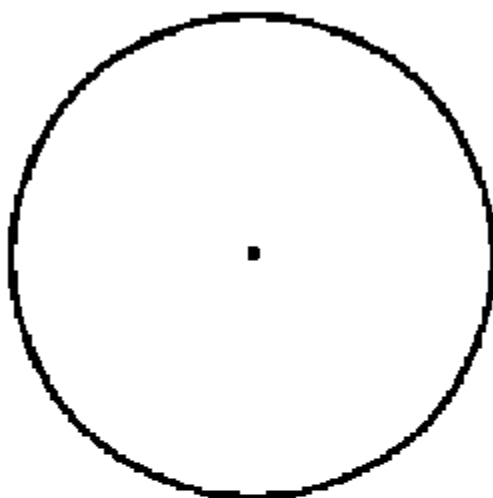
On January 17, 2006, Ralph, who turns 65, and others will be celebrating the birth of Ben Franklin and it happens to be Ralph's birthday too!

Activity 7:

What are some other interesting facts about him?

- Create a wheel booklet using the graphics provided
- On the wheel list any other interesting facts about Franklin you've learned

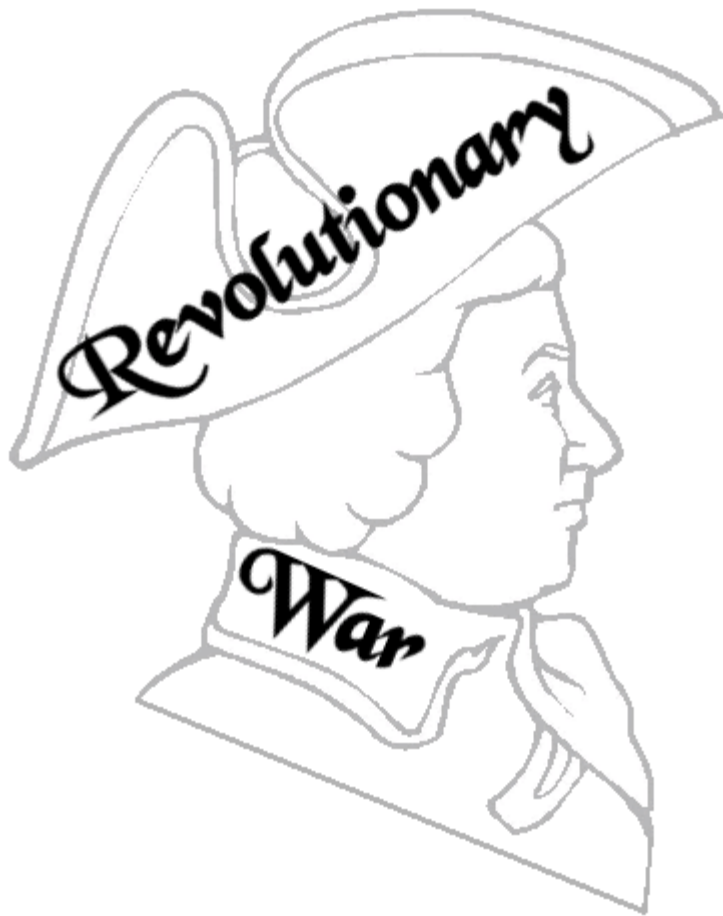
Place wheel in card,
fold card in half and
fasten with a brad
through front,
wheel and back
where marked with
a black dot.
Glue edges of card
to seal. Be careful
not to glue wheel.

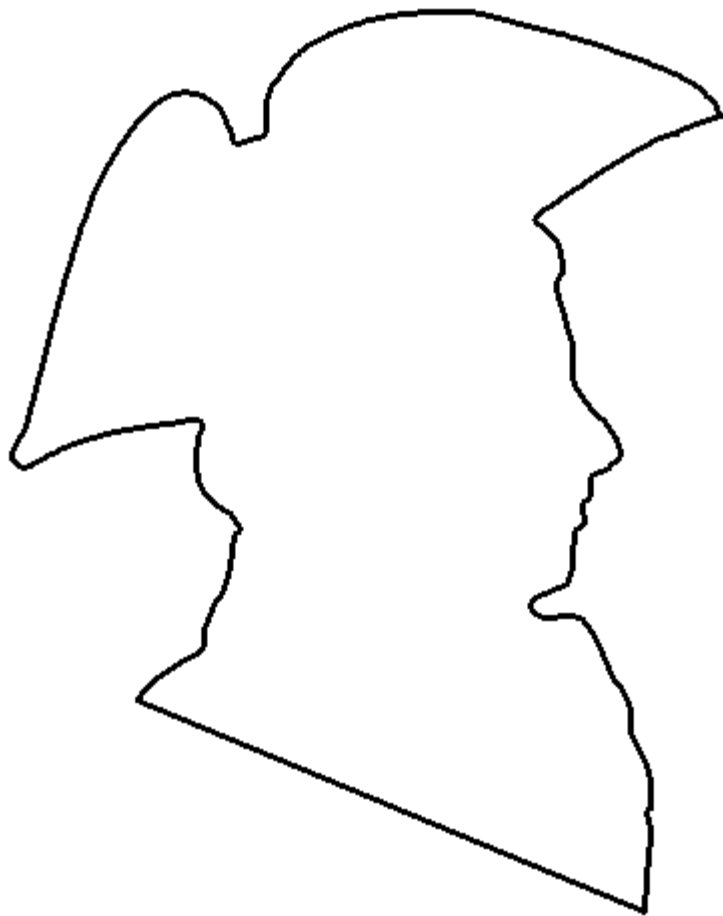


Activity 15:

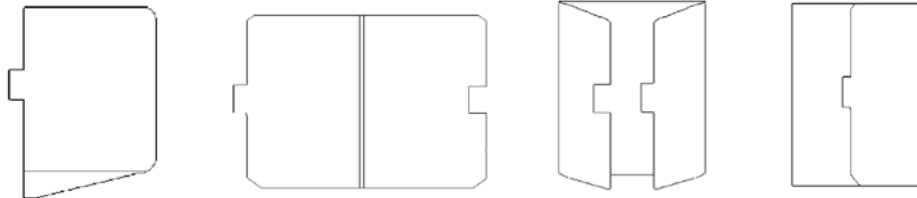
What role did he have in helping America win the Revolutionary war?

- Create a shape book using the graphics provided
- Stack and staple with the cover on top
- Inside explain all the things Franklin did to help America win the Revolutionary war





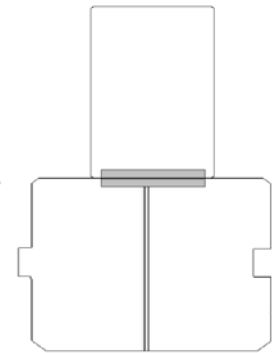
Instructions to Re-fold a Folder



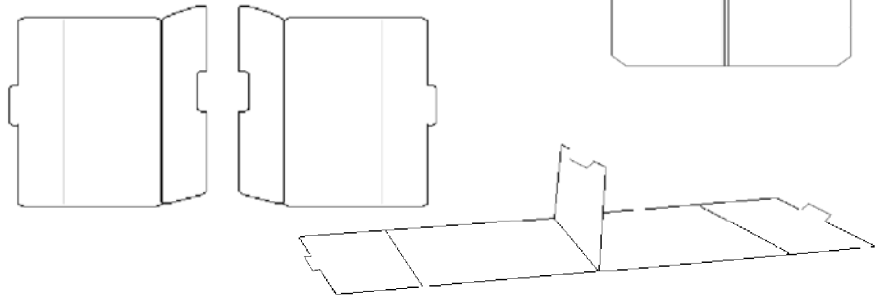
Normal Fold:

Open folder flat

Fold both the right and left edge to the center crease creating a shutter
 Cut a folder in half OR use a piece of cardstock to form your extension
 Lay the extension in the center of the shutter fold folder
 Attach at the top end using clear packing tape



Double Folder:



Open folder flat

Fold both the right and left edge in toward the center crease creating a shutter

Do this again with a second folder

Set both folders side by side with their shutters opened (pointing straight up not flat)

In the center where the two folders meet glue the outer flaps of each shutter together connecting the two folders

Fold both shutters closed and flip over and close

The back of one of the folders becomes your cover

***You can add extensions to a double folder using the same method as for a single folder.