



Benjamin Franklin
(1706-1790)

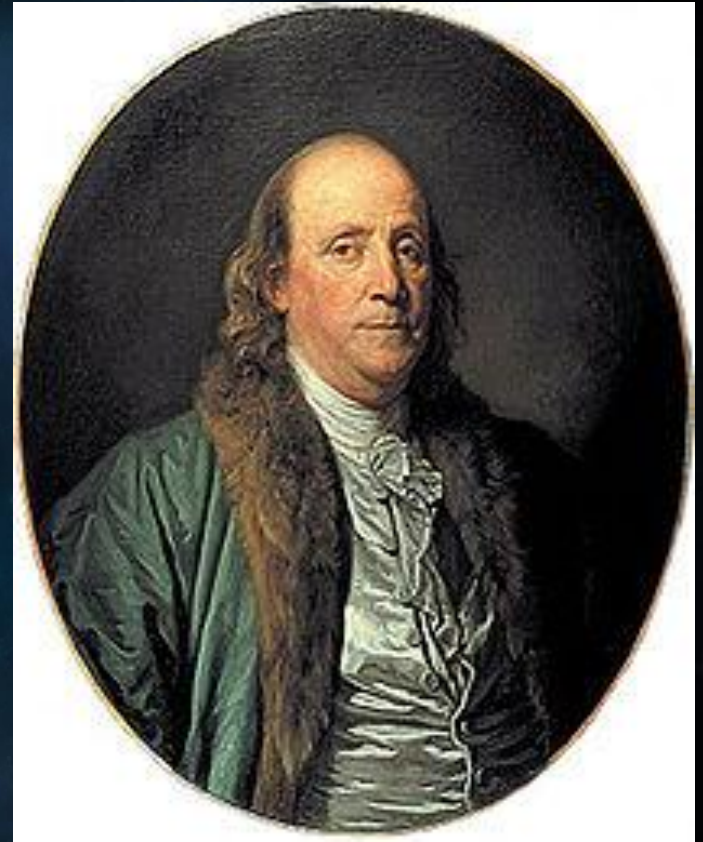
Lifeline

- Born 1706
- 10th son, and 15th child, of 17 children!
- Married Deborah Reed 1730
- Fathered 3 children
- Widowed 1774
- Died 1790

Interesting Facts

- At the age of 70, Benjamin Franklin was the oldest delegate to sign the Declaration of Independence on July 2, 1776.
- John Paul Jones, who became the premier American naval hero by raiding British merchant and military ships, named his vessel *Bonhomme Richard* -- French for "Poor Richard" -- in honor of Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack*.

Benjamin Franklin was not only one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. He was a leading writer, publisher, inventor, diplomat, scientist, and philosopher. He is well-known for his experiments with electricity and lightning, and for publishing "Poor Richard's Almanac" and the Pennsylvania Gazette. He served as Postmaster General under the Continental Congress, and later became a prominent abolitionist. He is credited with inventing the lightning rod, the Franklin Stove, and bifocals.



Life: Jack of all trades

- Born in a poor candle maker's family in Boston
- No regular education
- Became an apprentice of a printer when he was 12
- A editor of a newspaper and published lots of essays when he was 16
- Went to Philadelphia when he was 17
- A successful printer and publisher
- Retired when he was 42
- A scientist with lots of inventions and a famous experiment (kite, electricity, thunderstorm)
- A famous statesman (the only American who once signed all the four documents that created the new country)
- An example who made American Dream come true

Literary works

- Poor Richard's Almanac
- Modeled on farmers' annual calendar; kept publishing for many years; includes many classical sayings, such as "A penny saved is a penny earned."

Benjamin Franklin and *The Autobiography*

- First of its kind in literature
- Writing when he was 65
- An introduction of his life to his own son
- Including four parts written in different time
- Puritanism's influence, such as self-examination and self-improvement (timetable, thirteen virtues, life style)
- Enlightenment spirits (man's nature good, rights of liberty, virtues includes "order")
- Style: simple, clear in order, direct and concise ("Nothing should be expressed in two words that can as well be expressed in one.") (Puritanism's influence)
- Popular, still well-read today, his values and style influenced lots of Americans

Patriotic Activities

- Deputy postmaster for North America
- Colonial agent for Pennsylvania
- Petitioned England for freedom from Stamp Act
- Delegate to Continental Congress
- Helped write Declaration of Independence
- Negotiated treaty of alliance with France
- President of first society for abolition of slavery

The background of the slide is a deep space scene. It features a dark blue and black color palette. A prominent feature is a nebula or star-forming region, characterized by wispy, glowing blue and white clouds of gas and dust. Scattered throughout the scene are numerous stars of varying brightness, some appearing as sharp points of light and others as soft, out-of-focus glows. The overall effect is a sense of vastness and cosmic beauty.

Thanks for your attention!