

Benjamin Franklin

In Search of a Better World

The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, a non-profit organization supported by a lead grant of \$4 million from The Pew Charitable Trusts, was established to mark the 300-year anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's birth (1706-2006) with a celebration dedicated to educating the public about Franklin's enduring legacy and inspiring renewed appreciation of the values he embodied. The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary was founded in 2000 by a consortium of five Philadelphia cultural

institutions: the American Philosophical Society, The Franklin Institute, The Library Company of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the University of Pennsylvania. In addition, an Act of Congress in 2002 created the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission, a panel of fifteen outstanding Americans chosen to study and recommend programs to celebrate Franklin's 300th birthday. The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary can be found online at www.benfranklin300.org.



- 1 *Character Matters*
- 2 *B. Franklin, Printer*
- 3 *Civic Visions*
- 4 *Useful Knowledge*
- 5 *World Stage*
- 6 *Seeing Franklin*

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER



Exhibition Dates

December 15, 2005 – April 30, 2006

Hours of Operation

9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Sunday – Friday

9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Saturday

525 Arch Street
Independence Mall
Philadelphia, PA 19106
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www.constitutioncenter.org



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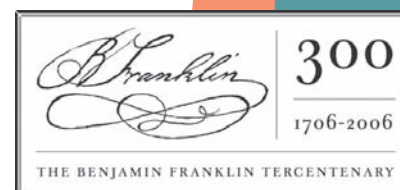
FAMILY GUIDE

Family • Fun with

Benjamin Franklin

In Search of a Better World

and Skuggs



Educational Sponsor
in Philadelphia

Hello, dear friends!

When I was a little critter, I was rescued from the thorny underbrush by my new best friend, young Ben Franklin. Oh, what did he see in so lowly a creature as me? I was just a tiny squirrel with no prospects! "But Skuggs," Franklin said to me, "even the smallest of creatures can do great things. Greatness is all around you. Step out into the world and you will find it."

And so Ben invited me to join him on an extraordinary journey. We have curious minds and sturdy shoes, but we need some traveling companions. Won't you share our adventures?

Come along, dear friends—off we go!



The early days in the Franklin family home were hardly easy. Just imagine them all—Ben's father Josiah and mother Abiah, his ten brothers and sisters, and young Ben—living in a twenty-square-foot wooden house on Milk Street in Boston. But Ben was not bothered. After a long day spent working in brother James's printing shop, he often slipped away and burrowed himself in books all night. If you come close, you'll see some of Ben's favorite books, but be careful—don't press your paws on the glass! Look for me lying nearby.

Ben Franklin loved to read and learn throughout his life. As a boy, he enjoyed literature, philosophy, the Bible, and more—and yet he attended school for just two years! When he was twelve, he became an apprentice printer—that is, a printer-in-training—to his older brother James. Ben made the most of the long, hard days in the printing shop. He practiced writing by copying from newspapers and other books and kept himself fit by swimming, always mindful of self-improvement and his future plans.

→ QUEST ←

Young Ben was an eager reader. How many of his favorite books can you count? _____

Write the author and title of *your* favorite book.

Describe your special place to curl up with a good book.

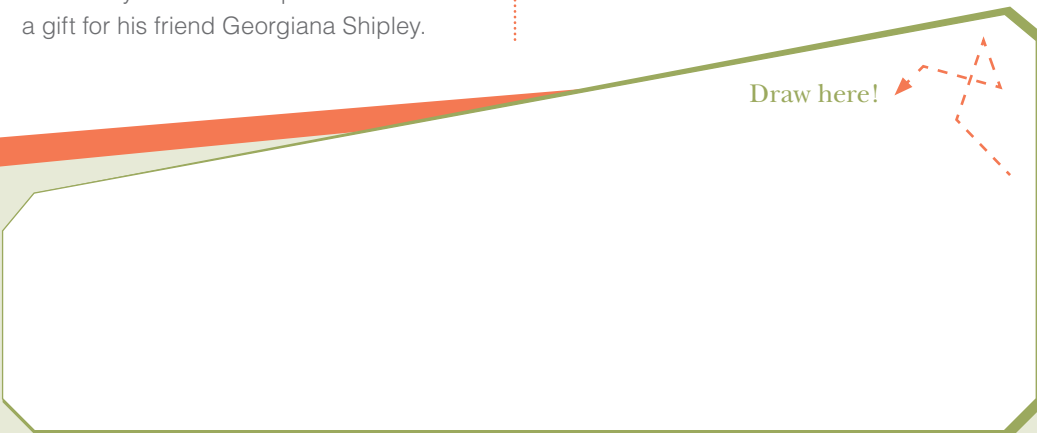
Character Matters

→ DRAWING ←

Here is a drawing of a family like Benjamin Franklin's. Draw a picture of your family in the white box on the left.



Draw here! →



→ FILL IN THE BLANKS ←

Benjamin Franklin wrote words of wisdom that mean as much today as they did long ago. As you visit **Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World**, look for the phrases in the exhibition that match the phrases in this book. Then fill in the blanks with Ben's famous words!

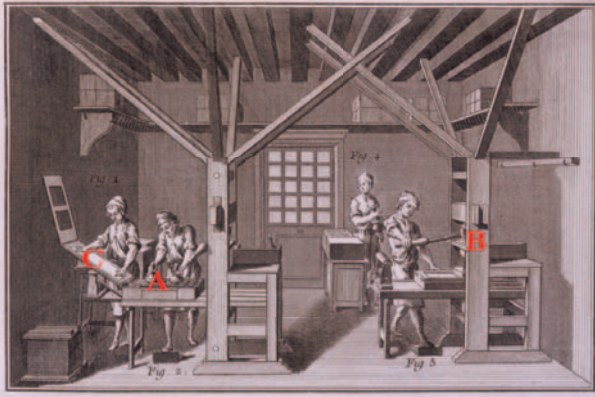
"Being _____ is not so much a Shame, as being unwilling to _____."



B. Franklin, Printer

Harrumph. It takes all the strength a little squirrel can muster to pull the press. I'm sweating my tail off here! And this place smells like wet paper and ink! Phew! Can you guess where I am? Look for a picture that shows hard-working young men—you'll see me all geared up and ready to lend a helping paw!

Ben arrived in Philadelphia at the age of seventeen and right away worked to establish himself as a printer. He opened his own shop on Market Street, where he and his wife Deborah also sold stationery and dry goods. Over the next twenty-five years, the printing business made Ben a wealthy man. But for Ben, printing was about more than money; it gave people with different ideas a way to share their opinions with one another. By the end of his long life, Franklin was a very famous man who had done many great things—but of all his accomplishments, he most wished to be remembered as “B. Franklin, Printer.”



The composing room of a print shop, plate 374 in Denis Diderot et al., Encyclopédie, ou Dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers, 1761–1789 The Library Company of Philadelphia

THE NAME GAME

Can you name the tools the printers are using in this printing shop? Write the name of the tool on the line next to the letter. (Hint: Look carefully at the tools displayed in the case here).

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

AT-HOME ACTIVITY

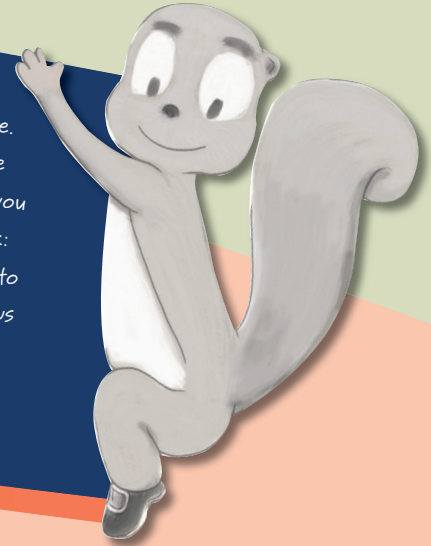
Make your home into a printing shop!
Go to www.benfranklin300.org for instructions.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

“The Good particular Men may do _____ ... is small, compared with what they may do _____.”

Civic Visions

Building a community can be a lot like planting a tree. You start with people who share a belief in making the world a better place—those are the seeds—and then you give it the energy and time it needs to grow. Just think: Philadelphia started with a few tiny seeds that grew into a spectacular tree. Do you see the Junto tree? Join paws with your friends and gather 'round the trunk. You'll discover how Ben and his friends built a community—and if your eye is quick, you might even spot me!



WORD JUMBLE

Unscramble the words below to reveal the community organizations founded by members of the Junto.

1. seiunvryti _____
2. ylarbri _____
3. ifre myocnap _____
4. atolipsh _____
5. sntficciiie iyeostc _____

Ben always had plenty of ambition and lots of ideas for improving the world around him. But he also knew that people working together can accomplish far more than individuals working alone. In Philadelphia, Ben found eleven friends who shared his community spirit. Together they formed a club called the Junto. Through many years of teamwork, Ben and other Junto members started seven institutions and carried out many plans to make Philadelphia a better community for everyone.

→ FILL IN THE BLANKS ←

“What signifies knowing the _____,
if you know not the _____ of Things.”



Useful Knowledge

Zap! This eighteenth-century scientific stuff is electrifying! Who would have guessed that a little glass tube could make such a big spark? Zouch! I think my fur is making an electrical charge as it rubs against the glass. Look for me in front of the wooden machine...I wonder what might happen if I turned the crank?

Ben's endless curiosity and wish for a better world made him perfectly suited to be a scientist. Always aiming to make life both easier and safer, he looked for ways to improve everyday things using scientific knowledge. Ben also exchanged ideas with scientists in Europe, helping to bring about major advances in the study of electricity. By the time the American Revolutionary War broke out, Franklin was respected and admired around the world for his scientific achievements. This international fame helped Franklin in his role as one of America's first international diplomats.

→ CRISS-CROSS ←

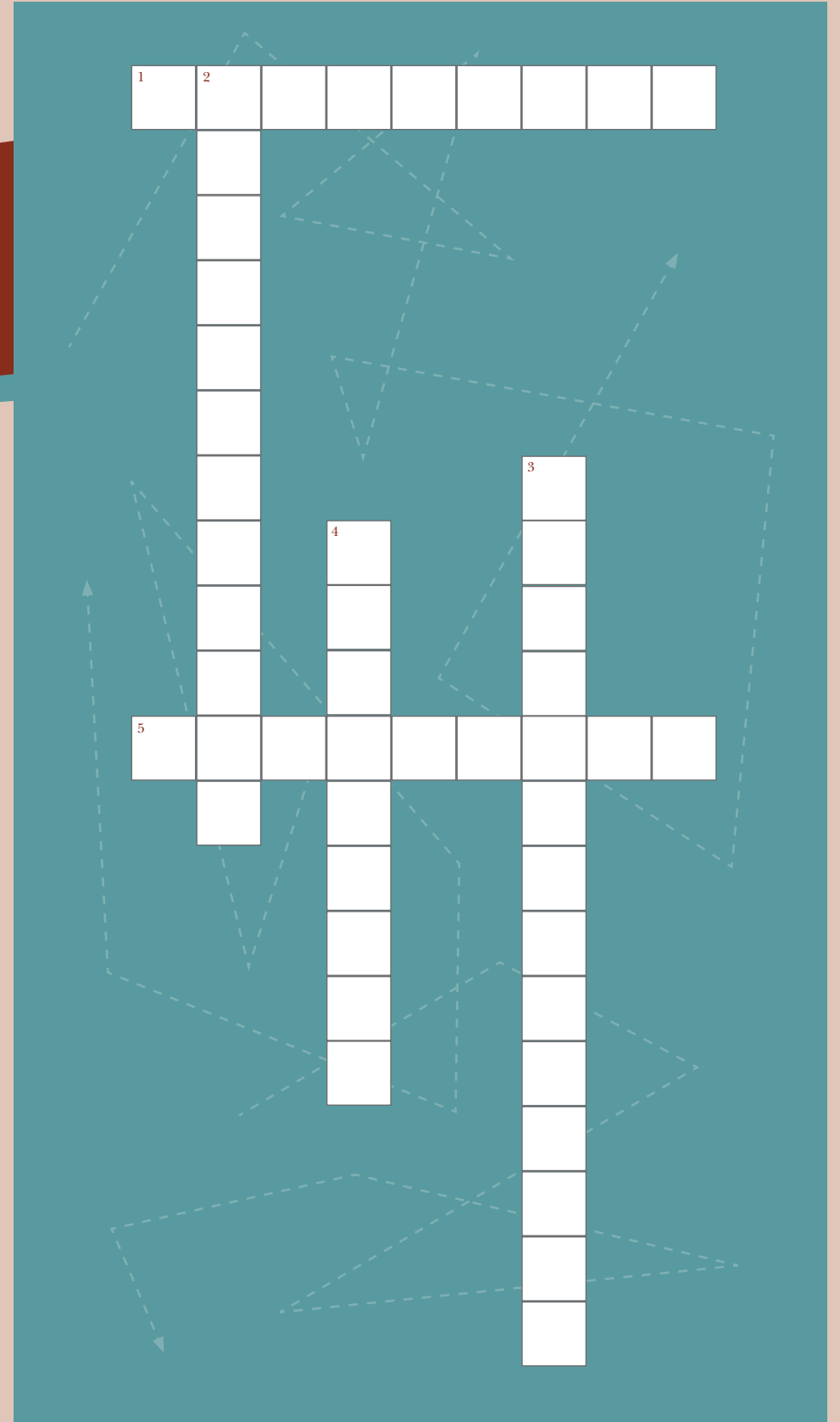
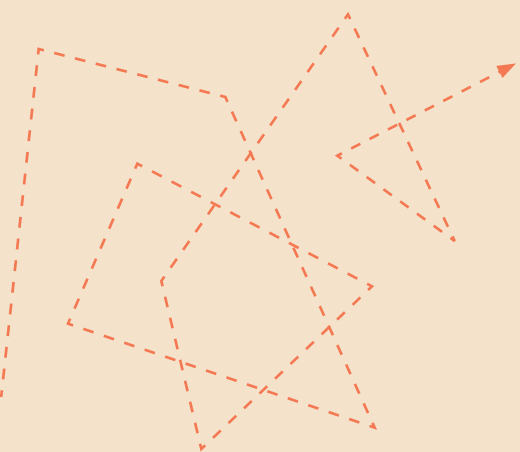
Take a look around for clues—you'll be “shocked” to find them right in front of you!

Across

- 1. Rubbing wool or fur on this instrument made an electric spark.
- 5. Franklin introduced this word to describe material that transmits electricity.

Down

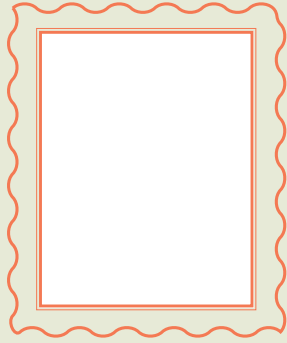
- 2. This protective device kept homes from catching fire during thunderstorms.
- 3. These rang from inside homes when thunderclouds brought electrical charges near.
- 4. This first battery used metal and glass to capture and store electricity.



Answer Key: Across 1. glass tube 5. conductor Down 2. lightning rod 3. lightning bells 4. Leyden jar

DRAWING ACTIVITY

Benjamin Franklin did more with mail than sending and receiving letters. As deputy postmaster, he improved the colonial postal system. Design your own stamp in honor of Postmaster Franklin's 300th birthday.



World Stage

Dear Friends,

As you desire to know my whereabouts, I now let you know that I sit close by. Just look for Ben's special traveling desk, and you'll find me sitting with a pen in my paw and a letter on my lap.

Your most humble obedient servant,
Skuggs



Benjamin Franklin loved writing letters. He sent them to everyone he knew—family, friends, scientists, and politicians—from everywhere he lived—Boston, Philadelphia, London, and Paris. Ben spent almost thirty years living overseas—first in London and then in Paris—far from his family and his American friends. Ben carried this desk with him wherever he went, always ready to send or receive another letter.

COLONIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Benjamin Franklin traveled to both London and Paris. Write a letter to him telling him about a trip that you've taken.

World Stage

Now that the fight for independence is in full swing, the American soldiers are in desperate need of supplies. Ben is getting ready to go to France and ask King Louis XVI for help. Meanwhile, you can find me double-checking the order for supplies that the Continental Congress gave us—we can't forget a single thing!

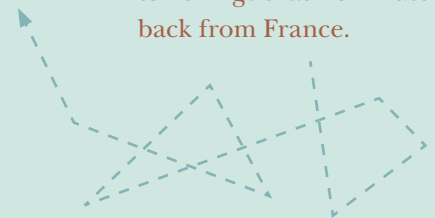


The Continental Congress sent Ben to Paris with a thirty-eight-page list of everything the Americans needed to fight the war with Britain. It took some time, but Ben finally convinced the King of France to send these supplies, which were loaded onto a boat bound for America. But somehow the British discovered the plan and sent a gunboat to sink the ship! So Ben begged the French King to replace the lost goods. The second ship made its way to America, and the Continental Army received the much-needed military goods. In the end, Ben's hard work helped make history.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

SUPPLIES LIST

Imagine helping Ben prepare for his trip to France. What supplies did the Continental army need for fighting battles with the British? Write a shopping list of ten things that Ben must bring back from France.



→ FILL IN THE BLANKS ←

“There never was a good _____, or a bad _____.”



World Stage

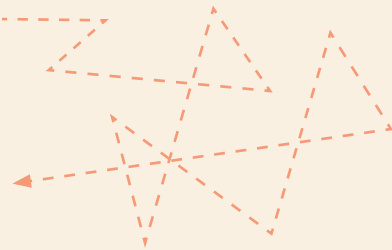
Many years have passed since we began our journey together in Boston, and Ben and I are growing old. My fur is flecked with white, and Ben's hair is streaked with silver. We both wear double spectacles to see clearly and rest on canes to move about. But though our bodies are worn, our spirits are bright. Can you spot me in my diplomat's dress? Look for an unfinished painting that shows Ben and his American friends finishing an extraordinary mission.

→ WORD SEARCH ←

X R C I Y D H V V R Q K P C C R I Y J Y
 O X N O L N X D W M L O Y Q A Y N A Y O
 S O O P N C T U K J G V Z W R N D J K V
 Y Q R U S S J S M T J U Y L O A E B I A
 K Y U J G A T B M J P R W U U B P N M T
 U N I T E K K I A Y A W D F I L E D D B
 V U E K A U O F T N S E J Z S A N E I J
 C R K R O E E S O U C W O T G P D O F M
 G R X R F P F I Y L T A J M O B E R H F
 K I T Q Y R T A A L Q I Q H D D N R Y E
 N O K T S U K R Q N S K O Z T Q C I F B
 U Q I D L W A T Y Y M A A N L H E A V Q
 Z M J O B T R Z C P V K R Q T W S N H W
 A G V L I A H G X P D G Y P W P H P Q F
 F E W O G N Z P Y T O L A T V Q L L R C
 R L N S T N E M U C O D R R A G T T N P
 D Q F W S T E D S X Z G Q E B E S R L P
 I J W Y S J T A O U O E K K J E R Q M G
 K F O U N D I N G F A T H E R N J T H L
 V A X O A Q G Q O R F M Z X I D I F P D

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| ALBANY | FOUNDING FATHER |
| AMITY | INDEPENDENCE |
| CONSTITUTION | REVOLUTIONARY WAR |
| DECLARATION | TREATY |
| DOCUMENTS | UNITE |

Ben's role in founding the United States began long before the Revolutionary War. In 1754, he thought of the first plan for uniting the colonies, and soon after sailed to London to represent the colonists' interests to the British government. He helped write the Declaration of Independence, which officially broke American ties with Britain, and then traveled to France to secure military aid that enabled the American army to defeat the British. Finally, after helping to write the U.S. Constitution, Ben became the only person to sign five of the founding documents of the United States: the Albany Plan of Union, the Declaration of Independence, the Treaty of Amity, the Treaty of Paris, and the U.S. Constitution.



→ AT-HOME ACTIVITY ←

Think about the stories you would like to tell. It's never too soon to get started on your own autobiography! Write the first paragraph of your life story.

Seeing Franklin

Having emerg'd from the thorny underbrush to be adopted by Ben, and having gone through life with all the joy a little squirrel could desire, I will now tell my life story. One day you, too, may find a friend like Ben and impress your paws upon the world—and then you, too, will have a tale to tell.

Your most humble obedient servant,
Skuggs



Ben loved telling stories. By the time he started writing his life story in 1771, he had scores of stories to tell. Ben began his *Autobiography* as a letter to his son, recounting his life's journey from a 16-year-old apprentice to one of the colonies' premiere citizens. He passed on his own means to success—a desire for self-improvement, a belief in virtue, and an endless curiosity. Ben wished most for others to find the same happiness and success he had found. Three hundred years after his birth, his *Autobiography* continues to be read worldwide. Do you think Ben fulfilled his wish?

→ WORLD FAMOUS ←

Benjamin Franklin's *Autobiography* has been translated into over twenty-five languages. Below you'll see the title—*The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*—in some of those languages. Can you match each title with the language it appears in? Write the letter of the language on the line by the correct title.

- | | |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| a. French | _____ 1. Fulankelin zi zhuán |
| b. Chinese | _____ 2. Vita di Beniamino Franklin scritta da sè medesimo |
| c. Swedish | _____ 3. Mémoires de la vie privée de Benjamin Franklin |
| d. Spanish | _____ 4. Benjamin Franklin's Jugendjahre |
| e. German | _____ 5. P`uraengk`ullin chasojon |
| f. Korean | _____ 6. A vtobiografia |
| g. Italian | _____ 7. Benjamin Franklin's Enskildta Lefwerne |
| h. Russian | _____ 8. Vida Del Dr. Benjamin Franklin |