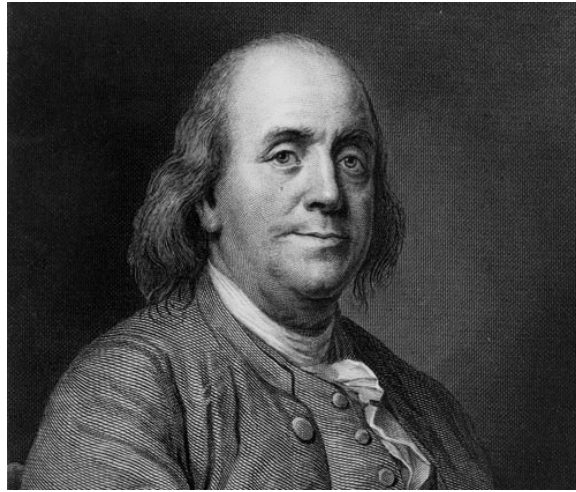


# Comprehensive Assessment Test

## *Benjamin Franklin*



## **ANSWER BOOK**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Score \_\_\_\_\_

## **Benjamin Franklin**

Benjamin Franklin was a man of vision. In the 1700's, he looked for ways to help others, and millions of people still benefit from his ideas.

Ben was the 15<sup>th</sup> in a family of 17 children. At the age of 12 he became an apprentice, working in his older brother's print shop. This was the beginning of a life of writing articles and books. He became a newspaper publisher in later years. Ben loved to read and devoured book after book, believing "the doors of wisdom are never shut."

He was a man of many talents, and science was another area in which he excelled. The famous kite experiment is one example of his work. To prove that lightning is electricity, he flew a kite outside during a thunderstorm. Sure enough, lightning hit the kite, traveled down the string, and made sparks fly from a key he had attached to the end of the string.

Ben Franklin used this experiment for one of his many inventions, the lightning rod. A simple metal rod is attached to a roof to attract lightning. When lightning hits the metal, it travels down the rod into the ground instead of setting the building on fire.

Franklin also invented the bifocal glasses to help people see better, and he designed a stove that saved fuel and provided better heat. He discovered that poor ventilation causes disease to flourish, and he later established the first city hospital in America. In Philadelphia he also established the police department, the fire department, a public library, and a university. In addition, he was the founder of the United States Postal Service.

Perhaps the best service he provided to future generations was by signing both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. At various times he served as a U.S. delegate to England and France. And the people of Philadelphia sent him to represent them at the Second Continental Congress.

Benjamin Franklin spent much of his life trying to make the world a better place. In recognition of his many accomplishments, his image has appeared on U.S. stamps, coins, and paper money. The name Benjamin Franklin will always be listed as one of the greats in American history.

Read the story “Ben Franklin.” Now answer Numbers 1 through 8. Base your answers on the story.

1. Read this sentence from the article.

**Ben loved to read and devoured book after book, believing “the doors of wisdom are never shut.”**

What does the word devoured mean?

- a. opened up
  - b. looked up
  - c. went around
  - d. went though
- 
2. What part of Franklin’s kite experiment proved that lightening is electricity?
    - a. Lightening traveled down the string of the kite.
    - b. Sparks flew from a key attached to the kite string.
    - c. The surface of the kite was covered with lightening.
    - d. The kite remained in the air during the thunderstorm.
  
  3. From his childhood to his adult life in Philadelphia, what were Benjamin Franklin’s accomplishments related to reading and writing? Explain your answer with details and information from the article.

4. The author's purpose for writing the article is
  - a. to describe Benjamin Franklin's struggle to invent electricity
  - b. to inform the reader of Benjamin Franklin's accomplishments
  - c. to report Benjamin Franklin's role as a soldier in the Revolutionary War.
  - d. to explain how Benjamin Franklin's picture was chosen to appear on the \$100.00 bill
  
5. According to the article, what did Benjamin Franklin do that helped Americans the MOST?
  - a. served as a delegate to France
  - b. served as a delegate to England
  - c. signed the Constitution
  - d. started the Second Continental Congress
  
6. What did the author mean when he said, "Benjamin Franklin was a man of vision"? Explain your answer with details and information from the article.

7. What expression best described the author's attitude toward Benjamin Franklin?
- a. admiring
  - b. amused
  - c. cautious
  - d. critical
8. The information in the article "Benjamin Franklin" could best be used for a student research project on
- a. how scientific experiments are conducted in a laboratory
  - b. how children learned to read in Colonial America
  - c. people who wrote books on electricity
  - d. people who helped build America