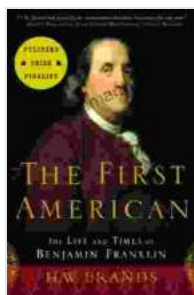


# The Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin: An American Icon

Benjamin Franklin was an American polymath who was active as a writer, scientist, inventor, statesman, and diplomat. He was also a leading figure in the American Enlightenment and the American Revolution.



## The First American: The Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin by H. W. Brands

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Language             | : English   |
| File size            | : 3195 KB   |
| Text-to-Speech       | : Enabled   |
| Screen Reader        | : Supported |
| Enhanced typesetting | : Enabled   |
| X-Ray                | : Enabled   |
| Word Wise            | : Enabled   |
| Print length         | : 786 pages |



Franklin was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1706. He was the son of a candlemaker and soap maker. Franklin had little formal education, but he was a voracious reader and autodidact. He apprenticed as a printer and eventually became a successful publisher and printer in Philadelphia.

Franklin was a prolific writer. He wrote on a wide range of topics, including politics, science, economics, and religion. His writings were widely read and influential in both America and Europe. Franklin was also a gifted

inventor. He invented the lightning rod, the bifocals, and the Franklin stove. He also made significant contributions to the field of electricity.

Franklin was a leading figure in the American Enlightenment. He was a member of the American Philosophical Society and the Royal Society of London. He also served as the first Postmaster General of the United States. Franklin was a strong advocate for education and founded the University of Pennsylvania.

Franklin was also a leading figure in the American Revolution. He was a delegate to the Continental Congress and helped to draft the Declaration of Independence. Franklin also served as the American ambassador to France during the war. He played a key role in securing French support for the American cause.

Franklin died in Philadelphia in 1790. He is considered one of the most important figures in American history. He was a brilliant thinker, inventor, and diplomat. Franklin's legacy continues to inspire Americans today.

## **Franklin's Legacy**

Franklin's legacy is immense. He is remembered as one of the most important figures in American history. His writings, inventions, and diplomatic achievements have had a profound impact on the world. Franklin's legacy continues to inspire Americans today.

- Franklin's writings are still widely read and influential today. His essays on politics, science, economics, and religion are considered classics of American literature.

- Franklin's inventions have had a major impact on the world. The lightning rod, the bifocals, and the Franklin stove are all still in use today.
- Franklin's diplomatic achievements were critical to the success of the American Revolution. He played a key role in securing French support for the American cause.

Franklin was a truly remarkable man. He was a brilliant thinker, inventor, and diplomat. His legacy continues to inspire Americans today.

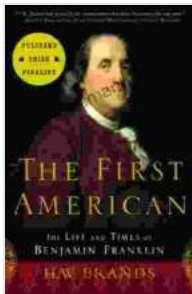
### **Timeline of Benjamin Franklin's Life**

- 1706: Born in Boston, Massachusetts
- 1723: Moves to Philadelphia
- 1729: Founds the Junto, a discussion group
- 1732: Publishes the first Poor Richard's Almanack
- 1743: Conducts his famous kite experiment
- 1752: Invents the lightning rod
- 1757: Elected to the Pennsylvania Assembly
- 1765: Represents Pennsylvania at the Stamp Act Congress
- 1774: Serves as a delegate to the First Continental Congress
- 1775: Appointed Postmaster General of the United States
- 1776: Helps to draft the Declaration of Independence

- 1778: Appointed American ambassador to France
- 1783: Signs the Treaty of Paris, ending the Revolutionary War
- 1785: Returns to Philadelphia
- 1787: Helps to draft the Constitution of the United States
- 1790: Dies in Philadelphia

## Additional Resources

- The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary
- PBS American Experience: Benjamin Franklin
- History.com: Benjamin Franklin



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