

THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
1706 - 1790

**A Founding Father
of the United States**

Compiled by
Kiwi Opa

THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



A Founding Father
of the United States.

A distinguished printer
full of witty aphorisms
and lively writing.

He started a Library;
a hospital; a Fire Dept;
and a Philosophical Society

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN 1706 - 1790

THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

He was a
renowned polymath
and a leading author,
printer, political theorist,
politician, freemason,
postmaster, scientist,
inventor, civic activist,
statesman and diplomat.



SIR BENJAMIN FRANKLIN 1706 - 1790



THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Benjamin Franklin, 17th January, 1706
was born in Boston.

His father, Josiah, was
a soap maker.

He was 10th in a line
of 17 children. His house -)



His father planned for him to be a clergyman.
But the cost of the education was too high.
So he became apprentice printer
to his brother, James.

THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

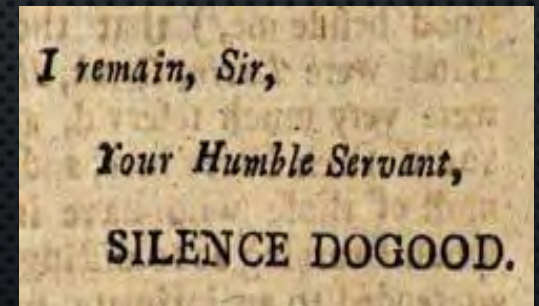
His brother started *The New England Courant* the first "newspaper" in Boston.

Benjamin wasn't allowed to write for the paper.



So, he began writing letters in secret at night.

He signed them Silence Dogood, a fictional widow.



His Pen Name

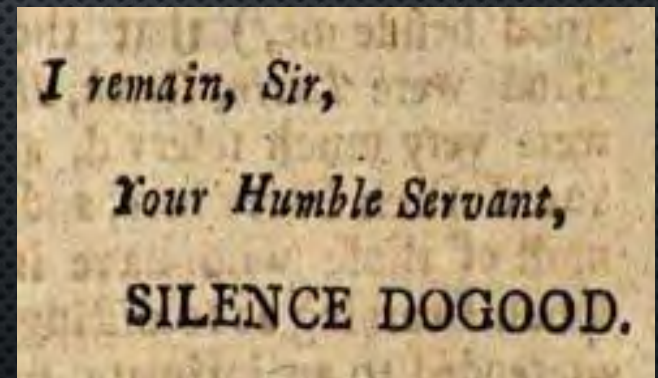
THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

She filled them with advice;

She was very critical of the world around her,
especially how women were being treated.

Ben would then sneak the letters
under the print shop door
at night, so no one knew
who was writing the pieces.

They were a smash hit,
and everyone wanted to know
who the real "Silence Dogood" was?



His Pen Name



EARLY TO BED, EARLY TO RISE

MAKES ONE HEALTHY, WEALTHY AND WISE

USHISTORY.ORG \ FRANKLIN \ QUOTABLES

THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1723 Benjamin ran away from home
even though this was against the law.

He took the boat to New York;
walked across New Jersey, then
landed by boat in Philadelphia.

He arrived wet, Deborah Read -)
dishevelled, and messy.

A girl saw him; thought him odd-looking.
Seven years later, she married him.



THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Due to a misunderstanding with the Governor of Pennsylvania

He was forced to spend several months in England.

He worked as a printer and learnt the trade well.

18th Century Printing Press -)



THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Before he left for London,
Benjamin had been living
with the Read family.

Deborah, their daughter started
talking to him about marriage.

Although Benjamin loved her,
he felt he wasn't yet ready for marriage.

While he was gone, she married another man.





WHEN THE WELL'S DRY

WE KNOW THE WORTH OF WATER

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THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Upon returning to
Philadelphia

Benjamin borrowed
money and
set himself
up in the
printing business.



The business soon thrived. A Thriving Business

THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1728 Benjamin fathered
a child, William.

His mother is unknown.

1730 He married his
childhood sweetheart,
Deborah Read.

Deborah Read Franklin



Deborah's husband had run off and left her.

So she was now free to marry Benjamin.

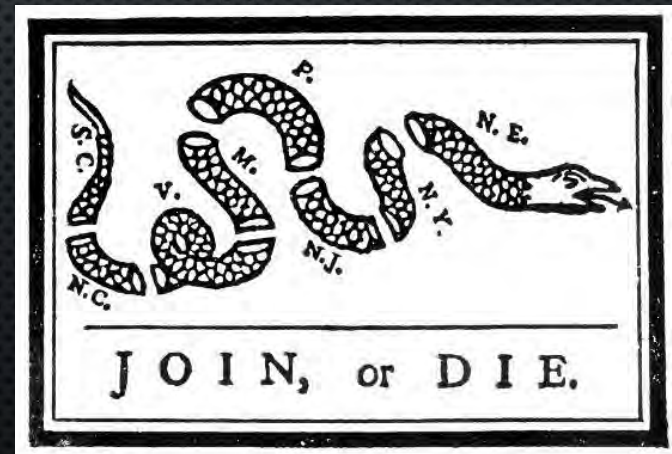
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1729

Benjamin bought the
Pennsylvania Gazette.

His newspaper soon
became the most successful
in the colonies
and printed
the first political cartoon.

Sample Political Cartoon -)

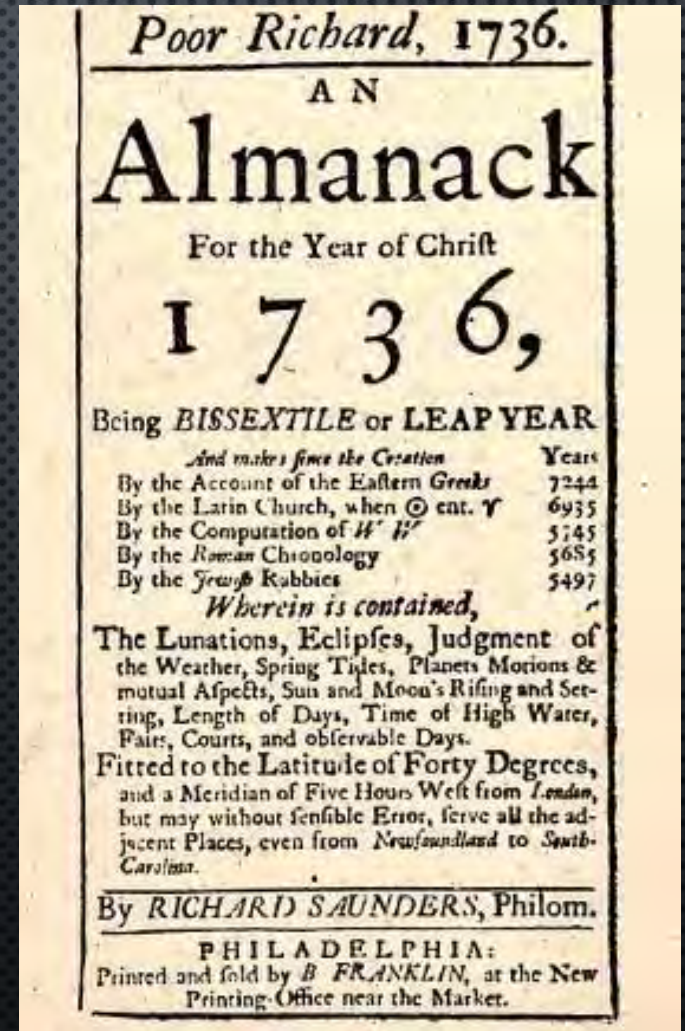


THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1733

He started publishing
Poor Richard's Almanack.

He published his
almanac under the name
Richard Saunders,
a poor man
who needed money
to take care
of his moaning wife.



THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Almanacs were printed annually, and contained weather reports, recipes, predictions and homilies.



What distinguished Benjamin's almanac were his witty aphorisms and lively writing.

Many of his famous phrases, such as, "A penny saved is a penny earned" were first penned by Poor Richard.



THE CAT IN GLOVES

CATCHES NO MICE

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THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

During the 1730s and 1740s
Benjamin became more
involved in helping
his community

He helped launch projects
to pave, clean and light
Philadelphia's streets.

He started agitating for
environmental clean-up.



Benjamin Franklin
College Hall,
Philadelphia

THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1731 He helped launch the Library Company during a time, books were scarce and expensive.

By pooling together resources, members could afford to buy books from England.

Thus was born, the nation's first subscription library.



THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1736 Fires were a very dangerous threat.
Benjamin set about organizing
Philadelphia's
Union Fire Company,
the first in the city.

His famous saying,
"An ounce of prevention
is worth a pound of cure,"
was actually
fire-fighting advice.



Benjamin Franklin
as a fireman

THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1752 Those who suffered fire damage
often suffered irreversible economic loss,

Benjamin helped found
the Philadelphia Insurance Co.

Those insured
weren't
wiped out
financially.



THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1751

Recognizing
that the city
needed better
help in treating
the sick,

Benjamin
brought together
a group to start
the Pennsylvania Hospital.



Centre, by the front door
is the original building

THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1743

He helped to
launch the
American
Philosophical
Society,

the first learned society in America. a scholarly organization of international reputation

All these organisations
are still operating today.





**WORK, AS IF YOU WERE TO LIVE 100 YEARS;
PRAY, AS IF YOU WERE TO DIE TOMORROW**

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THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1743 To help warm houses efficiently, he invented the Franklin stove.



As the stove was invented to help improve society, he refused to take out a patent.

You could cook food, dry clothes, boil water on this thing

THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Other inventions
included
swim fins,
bifocals
and
the glass armonica.



Benjamin Franklin
playing a
glass armonica

THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1749 Benjamin Franklin
retired from business.

He concentrated
on science,
experiments,
and inventions.

Which led to his most
famous experiment
of all ...



THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

In June 1752

Benjamin Franklin
took his son out
for a walk
through a field
on a stormy night

They flew a kite.



And as history recalls,
sparks flew that night.

THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

That night he verified his hypothesis
that lightning was the same as electricity.

Unknown to Franklin,
electricians in France
had already verified it.

They verified it
a month before
Ben & his son
took their historic walk.



But history still recalls, sparks flew that night.



ONE GOOD HUSBAND IS WORTH
TWO GOOD WIVES;
FOR THE SCARCER THINGS ARE,
THE MORE THEY ARE VALUED

THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1757

He went to England
to represent
Pennsylvania in its fight
with the descendants
of the Penn family
over who should represent
the Colony.



England 1757 - 1775

He remained in England till 1775 as a Colonial representative not only of Pennsylvania, but of Georgia, New Jersey and Massachusetts as well.

THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1765 British Parliament Stamp Act

Almost everything
written or printed on paper
in the colonies had to have
a special stamp pasted on it.

The stamp was proof of tax paid.

American colonists got so angry
they tarred and feathered
some British stamp agents.



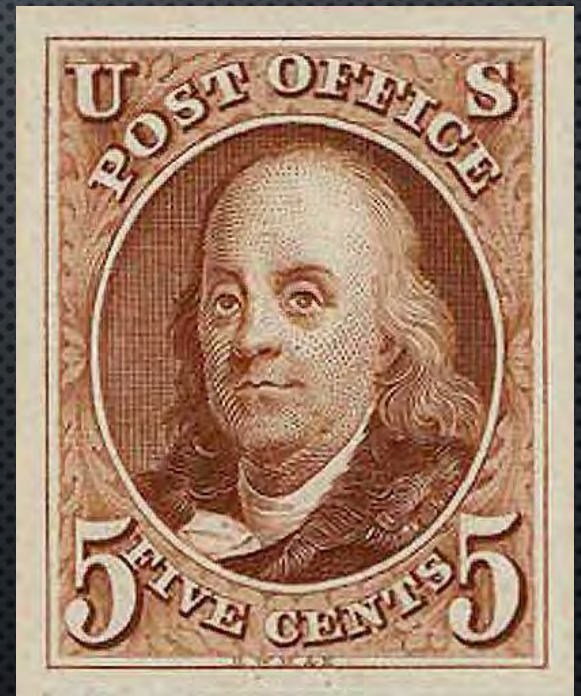
THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1765 Franklin was caught by surprise by America's overwhelming opposition to the Stamp Act.

His testimony 1847 Stamp -) before Parliament helped to repeal the law.

In 1754 Franklin, had proposed a plan to unite the colonies and break free of England

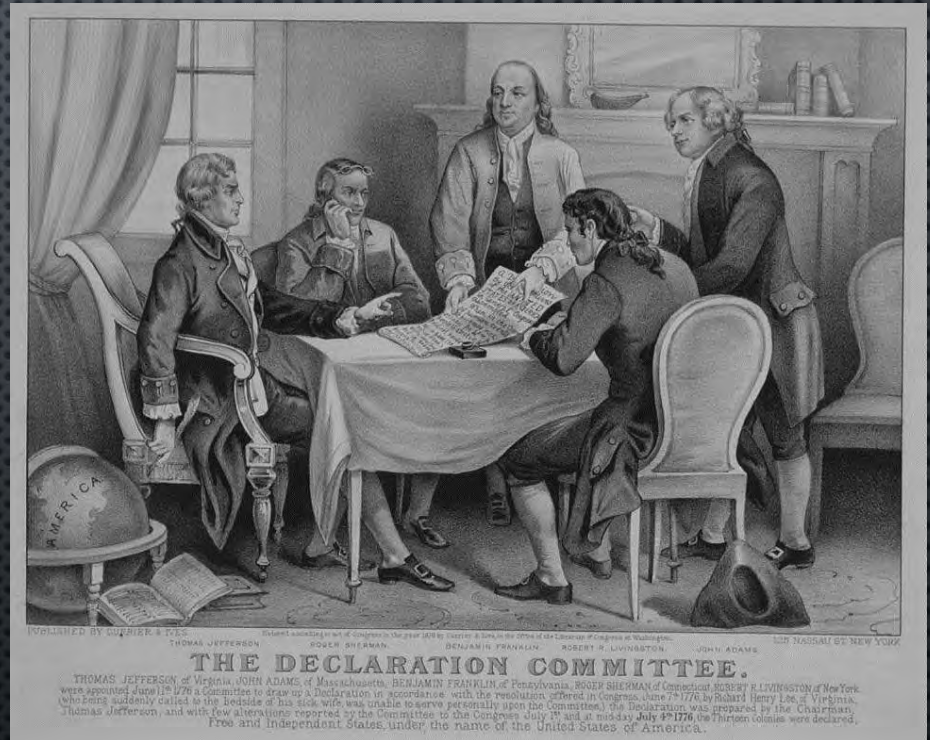
Now, he earnestly worked towards that goal.



THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1775

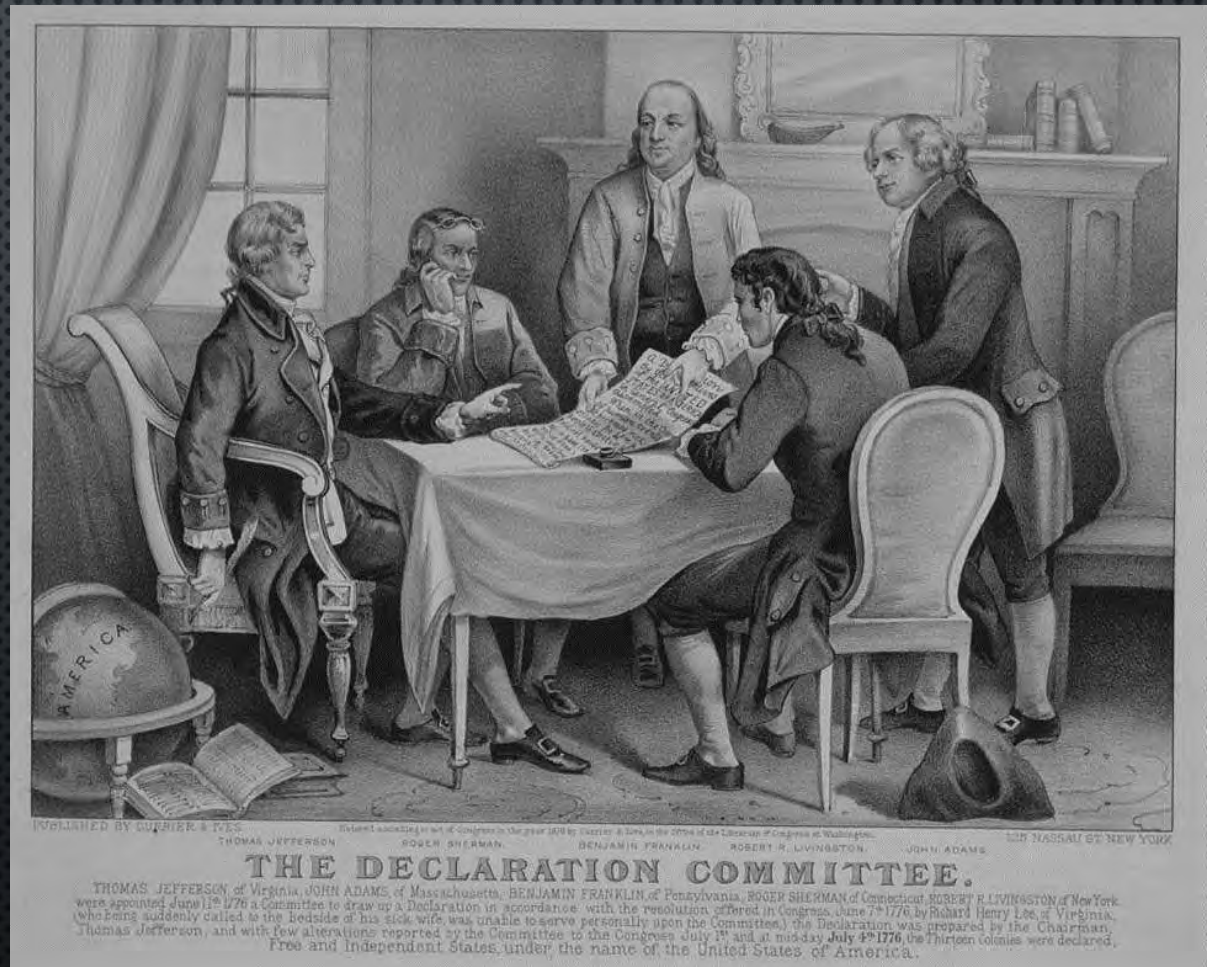
He returned home
and was elected
to the Second
Continental Congress,
a working committee
of five
that helped draft
the Declaration of Independence.



THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

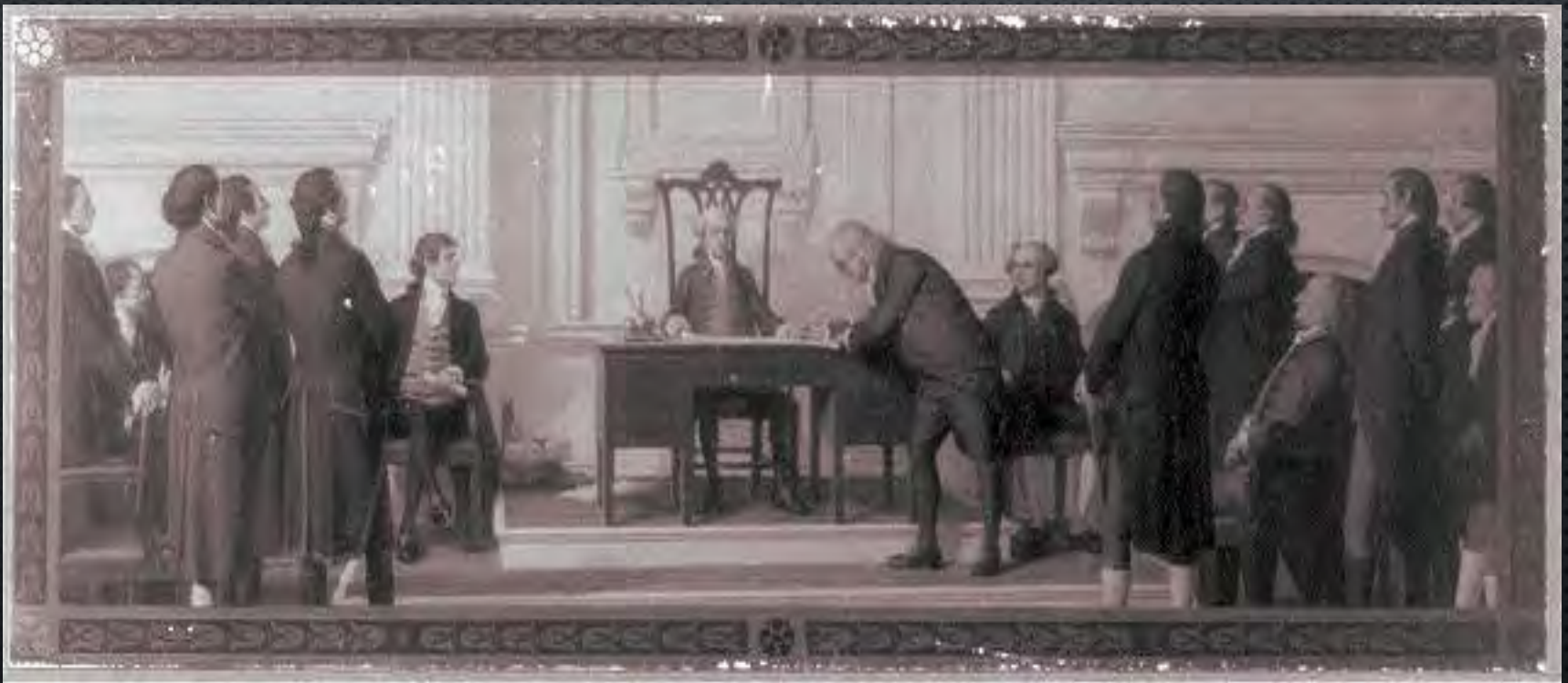
Much of
the writing
was
Thomas
Jefferson's;

Much of the
contribution
was
Benjamin
Franklin's.



THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1776 The Declaration of Independence
was signed ...





WHO IS RICH?

HE WHO REJOICES IN HIS PORTION.

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THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Shortly thereafter, Franklin sailed to France as an ambassador to the Court of Louis XVI.

The French loved him.

He was the man
who tamed lightning;
the humble American,
who dressed like
a backwoodsman,

but a match for any wit in the world.



backwoodsman

THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1776 Court of France



THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1778 The government of France signed
a Treaty of Alliance with the Americans.

1783 After the
Americans
had won the
Revolution,



Benjamin Franklin was there to sign
the Treaty of Paris.



**FOOLS NEED ADVICE MOST,
BUT WISE MEN ONLY, ARE THE BETTER FOR IT**

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THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Now a man
in his late seventies,
Benjamin Franklin
returned
to America.



1789 One of his last public acts
was to write
an anti-slavery treatise.

THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

April 17, 1790, aged 84,
Benjamin Franklin died.

20,000 people attended
the funeral of the man
who was called,
"the harmonious
human multitude."

His electric personality, however,
still lights the world.





**HE THAT LIETH DOWN WITH DOGS
SHALL RISE UP WITH FLEAS.**

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THE BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



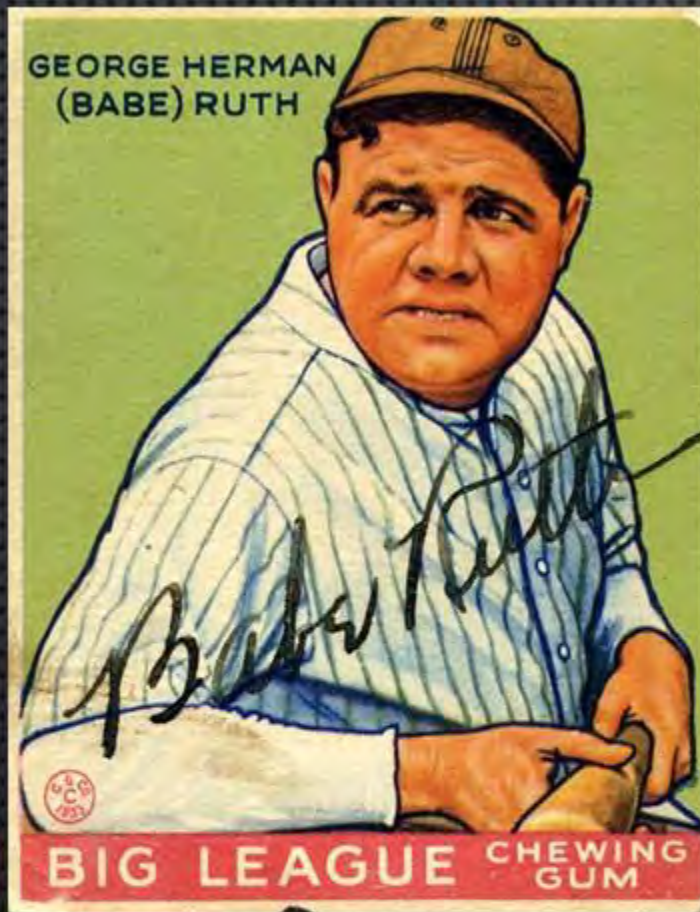
backwoodsman

The French loved him.

He was the man
who tamed lightning;
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a backwoodsman,
but was a match
for any wit in the world.

THE END

THE BIOGRAPHY OF BABE RUTH



BABE RUTH
1895 - 1948

Babe Ruth is regarded as one of the greatest sports heroes in American culture;

He is considered by many to be the greatest baseball player of all time.



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