



Whether inventing lightning rods, printing almanacs, or running the postal service; whether living overseas as a diplomat, founding a volunteer fire department, or even writing the world's most widely-published autobiography, Ben Franklin was a man to admire. On January 17, 2006, we will all have the perfect opportunity to learn from Franklin's example—and help everyone create a better world.

To help celebrate, understand, and reinvigorate Franklin's extraordinary legacy today, the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary has created an [Educational Activity Guide](#), with materials for grades K-4, 5-8, and 9-12; and [Ben Across the Curriculum](#), an exciting set of classroom materials uniting math, history, science, and much more, for elementary through secondary school levels. Visit www.benfranklin300.org to find out more.

PRINTER *Having progressed from apprentice to owner/proprietor of his own printing office, Franklin set up the first printing franchise. He was proficient in all forms of printing, with particular expertise in the printing of currency.*

WRITER *Franklin is considered one of our first writers of humor, but was also a gossip columnist and, of course, the creator of *Poor Richard's Almanac*—one of the colonies' first bestsellers.*

SCIENTIST/INVENTOR *Franklin's list of inventions and discoveries is long and varied, ranging from bifocals and the glass armonica to the discovery of electricity. Everything reflected his desire to improve the world around him.*

DIPLOMAT *The American tradition of citizen diplomacy began with Franklin, renowned for his ability to negotiate and arbitrate disputes.*

POSTMASTER *After Franklin was put in charge of the entire colonial postal system, he invented a carriage-mounted odometer to chart new delivery routes, he sped up delivery time, and he streamlined bureaucracy.*

SAILOR *On his frequent transatlantic sea voyages, Franklin devised the first-ever chart of the Gulf Stream; sketched new, more effective designs for anchors and sails; and studied the violent origins of maritime storms.*

SWIMMER *Franklin was an avid swimmer—did you know he not only invented swim fins, he came up with a method of "swimming by kite"?*

PHILANTHROPIST *"The noblest question in the world is What Good may I do in it?"—Benjamin Franklin*