



Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin is one of the best known of the Founding Fathers. A man of many talents, he was accomplished as a writer, publisher, scientist, diplomat, and inventor. His political career began when he started publishing the Pennsylvania Gazette, which was a voice of opposition to British rule in the American colonies in the years leading up to the revolution. Through the Pennsylvania Gazette, Franklin played a key role in the opposition to and subsequent repeal of the Stamp Act and the Townshend Acts

Franklin is also famous Poor Richard's Almanack, which he both wrote and published. This almanack, an annual publication full of information and predictions for the upcoming year, also included Franklin's poems, sayings, and scientific information. Poor Richard's Almanack sold for over 25 years.

It was Franklin's idea to have the First Continental Congress, held in 1774, and he delivered the colonies' petition to King George III of England himself. The following year, he represented Pennsylvania in the Second Continental Congress. He was one of the writers of the Declaration of Independence, as well as the country's first Postmaster General.

Franklin served as ambassador to France, where he gained French support, which was key in the success of the American Revolution. When the revolution ended in 1783, Franklin helped to negotiate the terms of the Treaty of Paris.

1. How did Franklin first make a name for himself in politics?

2. At what famous historical events was Franklin present?

