

Benjamin Franklin Encyclopedia Article

Benjamin Franklin

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Benjamin Franklin

1706-1790

American writer, publisher, scientist, diplomat, and inventor who made significant contributions to a number of fields, including playing a major role in the founding of the United States as an independent nation. In science and technology, he is remembered for his work in the theory of electricity and his many practical inventions that include the Franklin stove, which provides heat much more efficiently than a fireplace; bifocal eyeglasses; the lightning rod; and daylight savings time.