

# Benjamin Franklin Encyclopedia Article

## Benjamin Franklin

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# Contents

<a href="#">Benjamin Franklin Encyclopedia Article.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Benjamin Franklin.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>

# 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.