



For more background information about Benjamin Franklin, see the timeline below or visit our website: <https://benjaminfranklinhouse.org/>

**17 January, 1706:** Franklin is born in Boston MA

**1716:** Franklin begins work at his father's candle shop

**1718:** Franklin starts as apprentice printer working for his brother James

**1723:** Franklin runs away to Philadelphia to become a journeyman printer

**1724:** Franklin travels to London to continue training as a printer

**1728:** Franklin opens his own print shop in Philadelphia

**1730:** Franklin enters common law marriage with Deborah Read

**1732:** Franklin launches Poor Richard's Almanac

**1736:** Franklin organizes the first fire department in Philadelphia

**1737:** Franklin is appointed Philadelphia Postmaster; Clerk of Pennsylvania Assembly

**1741:** Franklin designs fuel efficient Franklin Stove

**1743:** Franklin founds the American Philosophical Society

**1748:** Franklin sells his printing office and retires from business

**October 1748:** Franklin is selected as councilman in Philadelphia

**13 November 1749:** Franklin is appointed president of Philadelphia Academy, which becomes the University of Pennsylvania

**June 1749:** Franklin became Justice of the Peace for Philadelphia

**13 August 1751:** Academy and Charity School opens

**1751:** Franklin is elected to Pennsylvania Assembly

**1752:** Franklin invents the lightning rod and performs kite and key experiment

**10 August 1753:** Franklin becomes Postmaster for the American colonies

**1757:** Franklin arrives in London as agent for Pennsylvania Assembly

**1759:** Franklin receives honorary doctorate from the University of St. Andrews, Scotland

**1761:** Franklin develops his glass armonica

- 1762:** Franklin leaves London for Philadelphia
- 1764:** Franklin returns to London to represent colonial interests before the Crown
- 1765:** Franklin opposes the Stamp Act leading to its repeal in 1766
- 1766:** Franklin writes treatise Prospects of War in America
- 1768:** Franklin experiments with canal depths and devises a new alphabet
- 1769:** Elected President of the American Philosophical Society
- 1771:** Begins Autobiography
- 1772:** Sends Hutchinson Letters
- 1773:** Hutchinson Letters are made public
- 1774:** Admits to releasing Hutchinson Letters and is subject to House of Commons trial
- 1775:** Departs 36 Craven Street. Elected to Second Continental Congress. Proposes Articles of Confederation
- 1776:** Signs Declaration of Independence and Sails to France as American Commissioner
- 1777:** Settles in Passy, France
- 1778:** Negotiates and Signs Treaty of Alliance with France
- 1780:** Further develops bifocals
- 1782:** Negotiates treaty of Paris with Britain
- 1783:** While in Paris watches the first hot air Balloon flight.
- 1785:** Returns to Philadelphia
- 1786:** Invents the Long arm, an instrument for taking books down from high shelves
- 1787:** Elected President of the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery-Also signs the constitution.
- 1789:** Writes last public letter urging the abolition of slavery
- 1790:** Dies on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April in Philadelphia aged 84

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any questions or suggestions by e-mailing:  
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