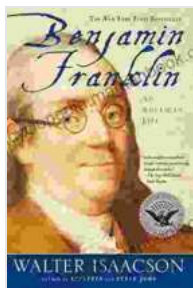


# Benjamin Franklin: An American Life



## Benjamin Franklin: An American Life by Walter Isaacson

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 25802 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 608 pages



## Early Life and Education

Benjamin Franklin was born on January 17, 1706, in Boston, Massachusetts. He was the fifteenth of seventeen children born to Josiah and Abiah Franklin. His father was a tallow chandler and soap maker, and his mother was a devout Puritan. Franklin's formal education ended at the age of ten, when he was apprenticed to his brother James, a printer. However, Franklin was an avid reader and continued to educate himself throughout his life.

## Career in Printing and Publishing

Franklin's apprenticeship to his brother gave him a solid foundation in the printing trade. In 1723, at the age of seventeen, he ran away from home and traveled to Philadelphia, where he found work as a printer. In 1729, he founded his own printing shop, which quickly became one of the most successful in the colonies. Franklin also published a number of influential

newspapers and magazines, including the *Pennsylvania Gazette* and *Poor Richard's Almanack*.

## **Scientific Discoveries and Inventions**

Franklin was a brilliant scientist and inventor. He conducted groundbreaking experiments in electricity, leading to the invention of the lightning rod. He also invented the Franklin stove, a more efficient and safer way to heat homes. Franklin's scientific work earned him international recognition, and he was elected to the Royal Society of London in 1756.

## **Diplomatic Career**

In the years leading up to the American Revolution, Franklin played a key role in representing the colonies in Great Britain. He served as a delegate to the Continental Congress and was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Franklin also served as the first Postmaster General of the United States and as the first Minister to France. His diplomatic skills were essential to securing French support for the American cause during the Revolutionary War.

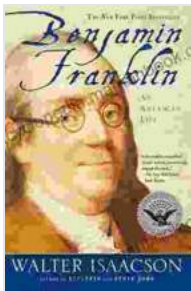
## **Later Life and Legacy**

After the war, Franklin returned to the United States and continued to play an important role in the new nation. He served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention and was one of the signers of the Constitution. Franklin also founded the American Philosophical Society and the University of Pennsylvania. He died on April 17, 1790, at the age of eighty-four.

Benjamin Franklin was one of the most important figures in American history. His contributions to science, invention, diplomacy, and writing were

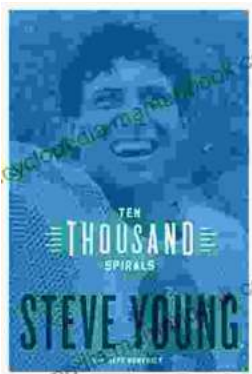
essential to the founding of the United States. Franklin's legacy continues to inspire generations of Americans.

Benjamin Franklin was a true Renaissance man. He was a brilliant scientist, inventor, diplomat, and author. His contributions to the founding of the United States are immeasurable. Franklin's legacy continues to inspire generations of Americans.



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