



Franklin

“Benjamin Franklin”

Reading Comprehension – Informational Passages ⁽⁴⁾

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer questions about the passage below.

Benjamin Franklin was born in 1706 in Boston, Massachusetts. He came from a big family. He had 16 brothers and sisters. When Benjamin was 15, his brother started the first Boston newspaper. It was *The New England Courant*. He worked for the newspaper for a short time, but he was not happy. So, he went to Philadelphia and worked as a printer. In 1729, he bought a newspaper business. The newspaper was the *Pennsylvania Gazette*. He was very busy. He also started *Junto*. It was a workers’ group. In 1733, he started **publishing** *Poor Richard’s Almanack*. (Now this word is spelled “**almanac**.”) His pen name (the name he used as an author) was Richard Saunders. This book came out every year. Almanacs have information about weather and crops. They also have wise sayings. The wise saying “A penny saved is a penny earned” comes from *Poor Richard’s Almanack*.

Benjamin Franklin was also a scientist. In 1743 he invented a very good stove, the Franklin stove. He invented swim fins and bifocal glasses. He **retired** from his newspaper **business** in 1749. He stopped working on it. Then he became busy with science.

Benjamin Franklin was also very interested in American politics. He helped Thomas Jefferson write the *Declaration of Independence*. In 1776, he and other people **signed** the *Declaration of Independence*. Franklin died on April 17, 1790. He was 84 years old.

Questions:

1) Which newspaper did Ben Franklin buy?

- A. *The New England Courant*
- B. *The New England Gazette*
- C. *Pennsylvania Courant*
- D. *Pennsylvania Gazette*

2) What was Ben Franklin’s pen name?

- A. Richard Franklin
- B. Richard Saunders
- C. Thomas Jefferson
- D. Benjamin Saunders

3) He started publishing his almanac in...

- A. 1729.
- B. 1733.
- C. 1743.
- D. 1749.



4) What did Ben Franklin invent?

- A. The Benjamin stove
- B. The Franklin stove
- C. Swim suits
- D. Both B and C are correct.

5) What did Franklin write with Jefferson?

- A. *The Declaration of Independence*
- B. *The New England Courant*
- C. *Poor Richard’s Almanack*
- D. *The Pennsylvania Gazette*

Vocabulary:

1) **Publishing** means...

- A. printing for many people to read.
- B. selling in a large store.
- C. inventing things.
- D. giving advice.

2) An **almanac** is a(n)

- A. informational book.
- B. newspaper business.
- C. workers’ group.
- B. pen name.

3) What is another way to say **retired**?

- A. Earned
- B. Helped write
- C. Became busy
- D. Stopped working



4) What is a **business**?

- A. A service or trade which earns money
- B. A person who signs with others
- C. A workers’ group
- D. None of the above.

5) When Franklin **signed** the *Declaration*...

- A. he helped write it.
- B. he wrote his name on it.
- C. he wrote a wise saying in it.
- D. Both A and C are correct.