

INVENTOR & MAKER OF THE WEEK

Benjamin Franklin

GENIUS WRITER, STATESMAN & INVENTOR

Benjamin Franklin was born on 17th January 1706 in Boston, USA. His family could only afford to send him to school for two years, but Benjamin loved learning and taught himself by reading as many books as he could.

After helping his brother in a printing shop, he worked in newspapers and became a very skilled writer. After that he moved around, took on important jobs, and was a big part of creating the United States of America.

Alongside being a printer, writer and politician, Benjamin Franklin was also a scientist and inventor.

In the 1700s, people didn't understand much about electricity, but he was fascinated by it and wanted to find out how it worked. One of his most famous experiments involved flying a kite during a thunderstorm to show that lightning is a form of electricity. From this he invented the lightning rod – a metal pole to protect buildings from lightning.

Franklin also invented lots of everyday objects to solve real problems, including bifocal glasses to help people see better.

