Name_____

Benjamin Franklin

In 1706, one of America's most well-known historical figures was born: Benjamin Franklin. Franklin was born in the Massachusetts Bay Colony and is considered one of the founding fathers of the United States of America.

Like many children during this time period, Franklin began working at an early age. By the time he was ten, he was already learning to make candles at his father's business. By age twelve, he was apprenticed to work at a print shop, and by age fourteen, he was printing many of his own writings under a pseudonym. Eventually, Franklin would leave his apprenticeship and move to Philadelphia.

Franklin had found his life's passion during his apprenticeship while working with a printing press. He would eventually purchase his own newspaper. He published *Poor Richard's Almanac* by 1732, and during the following years, he would see his success continue to grow. Franklin also began to expand his interests into scientific pursuits during the next few decades. He invented the Franklin stove, and during this time, he also conducted his well-known kite experiments regarding electricity.

Politically, Benjamin Franklin would be part of the colonies rebellion against British rule. He would represent Pennsylvania at the Constitutional Convention. It was here the United States Constitution would be ratified. Franklin also participated in electing George Washington as the new country's first president. These accomplishments and Franklin's many other achievements serve to give him a prominent place in America's history.

Text Questions

1. According to the text, besides his political career, what are two other interests Ben Franklin had as an adult?
   a. science and horticulture
   b. technology and engineering
   c. education and writing
   d. writing and science
2. Which is a synonym for the word *rebellion* as it is used in the last paragraph?
   a. revolt
   b. support
   c. maintain
   d. reveal
3. Which statement is an opinion?
   a. Benjamin Franklin was born in 1706.
   b. Benjamin Franklin is one of America's most popular historical figures.
   c. Benjamin Franklin published *Poor Richard's Almanac.*
   d. Benjamin Franklin was a representative at the Constitutional Convention.
4. What was the author's purpose in writing this text?
   a. to entertain
   b. to persuade
   c. to inform
   d. to state an opinion
5. Why might children who lived during Franklin's time have apprenticeships?
   a. so they did not have to go to school
   b. so they could learn trades or ways to make a living
   c. so they could earn extra money for entertainment and food
   d. so they could share what they learned with others

LIVEWORKSHEETS