

Benjamin Franklin

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We may never know for sure what Benjamin Franklin meant when he (supposedly) said, “half a truth is often a great lie,” but we do know that he loved to 1)_____ the truth. Despite this, he’s memorialized in art, history books, and even stuck on currency notes. Not bad for a cheating, lying, political opportunist!

Even most amateur historians agree Franklin lied about, after having a 2)_____ about the true nature of lightning, experimenting on lightning with a kite and a key. It never happened, nor do most scientists believe it is even possible.

Besides this most famous of tales, Franklin was also among the first to deploy fake news to 3)_____ rage in the people. Using a homemade printing press in 1782, he 4)_____ and printed an entirely fake newspaper, running a story about the discovery of teenage scalps on the frontier. The story was meant to arouse fear against the local Native American tribes and even included fake letters to the editor. It was picked up by the actual press, leaving Franklin to chuckle in his britches and 5)_____ to friends about how easily he had 6)_____ on the poor American settlers.

