

What would you do if you lived in a community without a library, hospital, post office, or fire department? If you were Benjamin Franklin, you'd set up these organizations yourself. Franklin also designed the lightning rod, suggested the idea of daylight saving time, and invented bifocals and the odometer – all inspired by his common sense and intelligence. - *Square Fish*

### Build Background

Bring in an invention (such as a pencil sharpener, blender, hair dryer, etc). Ask students to name the object, why it was created and how it makes our lives better or easier. Point out that achieving excellence often means 'thinking outside the box,' as inventors do. There is often more than one solution or answer to a problem. Never giving up, or persistence, is a key trait of inventors!

### Key Vocabulary

invention	pg 2
illustrations	pg 5
bi-focal	pg 7-8
lightning rod	pg 11-12
armonica	pg 18
primitive	pg 20
odometer	pg 25-26
postmaster	pg 26

### Discussion Starters



1. What would be different if Benjamin Franklin had never invented a single thing? Would your life be different?
2. Do you think Benjamin Franklin's inventions are important?
3. What does it take to invent something? What personal skills/character traits does someone need to be an inventor? Why?

### Writing Prompts



Research an invention. Write a summary that tells what the invention is, why it's important and how it was invented.

Complete this prompt: *I would like to invent* \_\_\_\_\_. Explain why it would be helpful or important and how you would go about inventing it. Be sure to include character trait words that you would need to have during the process.

### Activity



**Now and Then** Show students the printable of various inventions, some of which are no longer in use. Have them share what they think the items are or might be used for. Remind them that there are no right or wrong answers. *Inventions Shown:* 1) *The first telegraph message, 1844* 2) *Abacus, counting system before the calculator, Roman empire* 3) *The first video game console, 1972* 4) *Telescope, 1896* 5) *Apple Peeler, late 1800s* 6) *Velcro, 1948* 7) *Eyeglasses, 1805* 8) *Cast, 1831* 9) *Kinetophone, an early motion picture viewing device, 1895*



### More Resources



Accelerated Reading Quiz: 106260



Show Disney's 1953 animated short film 'Ben and Me' (on YouTube or a local library) for a playful take on his life from a mouse's perspective.

### BIG IDEAS To Reinforce



Creative Problem Solving, Persistence, Effort, The Rewards of Working Hard

### Student-Friendly Learning Target



I can describe an invention made by Ben Franklin. I can describe an invention of my own in detail.

### Core SKILLS

Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from a text.

Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

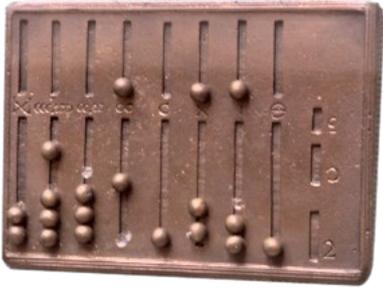
Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation and other information known about the topic to explore ideas under discussion.

Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection and research.

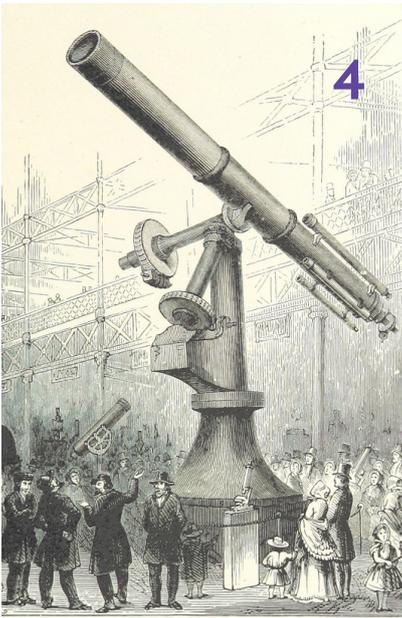
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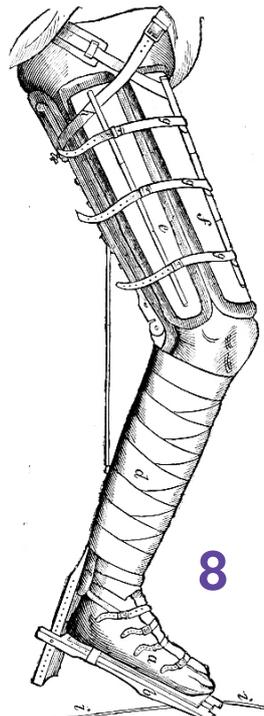
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Credit: olivepixel



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