



Ben Franklin For Beginners

Tim Ogline

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“If you would not be forgotten,
as soon as you’re dead and rotten,
either write things worth reading,
or do things worth the writing.”

– Benjamin Franklin, 1706-1790

Benjamin Franklin narrated, and lived, the Great American Success Story. As America’s prototypical polymath, he excelled – and even defined – a number of professions including printer, writer, postmaster, scientist, inventor, public citizen, politician, and diplomat.

He was a cornerstone in the foundation of the United States. He discovered practicable uses for electricity. He was America’s first great satirist. He founded the University of Pennsylvania. He invented bifocals. He was a legendary ladies’ man. He was all of these things... and he was so much more.

Ben Franklin For Beginners, written and illustrated by Tim E. Ogline, opens the book on Benjamin Franklin and tells the story of his life and times with wry wit and whimsical drawings.

Ben Franklin For Beginners Details

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Author : Tim Ogline

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From Reader Review Ben Franklin For Beginners for online ebook

Paul says

This book looks at the life of Benjamin Franklin. He was a lot more than "just" one of America's Founding Fathers.

A native of Boston, Franklin's father wanted him to become a minister. Realizing that Ben was not cut out for the religious life, he took Ben on a tour of the local trades. Ben ended up as an indentured servant to James, his older brother, a printer. It was not a happy relationship. Ben left Boston and found himself in Philadelphia.

Over time, he became a successful printer, gaining contracts through word-of-mouth advertising. He used a variety of pseudonyms to write articles, poems and letters to the editor for a number of different newspapers, including his own. James, his older brother, was not happy on learning that a series of very popular letters signed "Silence Dogood" that he printed, actually came from Ben, his younger brother. Ben was also a well-known hoaxster and humorist.

Franklin was interested in many things besides printing. He invented swim fins (at age 11!). He invented the Franklin Stove, a new kind of fireplace. People were reluctant to accept his invention of the lightning rod, fearing that re-directing lightning bolts was defying the will of God. Ben felt that six of the alphabet's 26 letters were redundant, and could be removed, replaced with new letters. He was also known for his famous "air baths." Ben founded the first lending library, the first volunteer fire department and helped raise money for America's first hospital.

Franklin made several trips to Europe, spending more than 25 years overseas. His duties ranged from agent for several different American colonies, to later being American Ambassador to France.

This is an excellent introduction to the life of Benjamin Franklin. It is very much worth reading for everyone, including teens, and those who know him only as one of America's Founding Fathers.

John J. says

Tim Oglie's "Ben Franklin For Beginners" is a wonderfully written and illustrated biography of America's electrical renaissance man: Inventor, innovator, statesman, educator, diplomat, printer, writer, politician, philanthropist, humanitarian, founding father, and scientist. Oglie brings a fresh look on the enigmatic Franklin that while simultaneously humorous and reverent digs beneath Franklin's historical myth and paints a detailed, scholarly portrait of a complex man, with as many flaws as virtues. In many ways, Franklin and his productive life evokes the American spirit of innovative entrepreneurship, fueled by a grand vision of the future, where a person's worth would be determined by his positive contributions to humanity rather than by what station in life a person was born to - a truly revolutionary concept. In reading this biography, one is struck by the similarities between today's technology pioneers like Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, Elon Musk, and Larry Ellison in that each of these men moved ahead of the pack by thinking out of the box and courageously taking huge risks. Ben Franklin, though, could still teach these tech giants a thing or two about life. Franklin, for example, was very generous in helping other people get started in new business enterprises or political endeavors. The American Revolution would never have garnered a popular base if Franklin had not written a letter of introduction for Tom Paine, author of "Common Sense" - a best selling pamphlet that convinced a young nation that then bizarre notions of democracy, liberty, and independence were attainable against the

then world's mightiest nation, Great Britain. Finally, Ben Franklin, who started out as a simple printer and a master word smith, had a profound influence on Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence in 1776, and later in 1787, he was instrumental in cooling tempers during the creation of the Constitution, the written foundation of our nation's government. When the Constitution was finally finished Franklin was asked, "Well, Doctor, what have we got—a Republic or a Monarchy?" To which Franklin responded, "A Republic, if you can keep it." Ogline's fascinating book essentially shows that Ben Franklin was in many ways the true father of the United States.

Todd McClimans says

I am hugely impressed with Tim Ogline's Ben Franklin for Beginners. Don't be deceived into thinking this book is only for young readers (though my elementary aged son loves it, as do my middle school students). The illustrations are masterfully drawn and lend to the engaging and informative writing. I've found so much non-fiction for young readers to be informative, yet dry and difficult to become engaged in. This is not so for Ben Franklin for beginners. Few stand as tall as Dr. Franklin in the Pantheon of American history and Ogline boils him down to a relatable human being who accomplished so much good for the world through ingenuity and industry.

I recommend Ben Franklin for Beginners for young and old alike!
