Benjamin Franklin

By Elizabeth A. Kissinger and Kimberly
Benjamin Franklin

- Printer
- At the age 16 he wrote and printed his brothers company.
- Franklin wrote about the daily life and politics of Boston under an anonymous name known as Silence Dogood.
- At age 17 Franklin opened his own printing shop in Philadelphia.
- These actions lead Franklin to writing the Poor Richards Almanack.
The "Write Reputation"

Just as Franklin had done for his brothers newspaper he made a fictitious author/editor for the Poor Richards Almanack. Even though Franklin wrote under cover his publishing of the book made him a very talented writer.
Secret to Success

Franklin's almanack consisted of simply things like the sun, moon, and the calendar. The almanack also had homespun sayings and many are still said today. He also included moral messages throughout which captivated his readers.
Man of Science

- Age 42: retired from printing to devote himself to science.
- Responsible for inventing a number of things:
  - Lighting rod
  - bifocals
  - new type of stove
  - confirming laws of electricity
  - scientific understanding of earth quakes and ocean currents

- Was very active in many fields and associations of both his country and of the world.
Statesman and Diplomat

- Was very influential in his time
- In his later years was an ambassador of both France and England
- He was considered to be "father of his country"
The Story Behind the Story

- Wrote his own autobiography at age 65
- He wrote only several sections
- Never finished
Literary Analysis

• Autobiographies present life events as the writer sees them
• Provides more personal accounts (obviously)
• His autobiography set the standard for this genre
Vocabulary Builder

Arduous: Difficult
Avarice: Greed
Vigilance: Watchfulness
Disposition: Management
Foppery: Foolishness
Felicity: Happiness
Squander: Spread or use wastefully
Fasting: Eating very little or nothing
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[Diagram with floating notes and text blocks related to Benjamin Franklin]