

# He Did All That?

Read the history essay.

Then follow the instructions in the Text-Marking box.

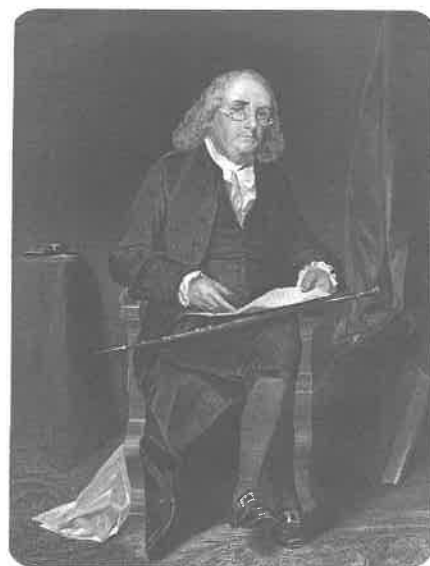
Diplomat, philosopher and businessman, Benjamin Franklin was the foremost American of his day. He was a pivotal figure in colonial and revolutionary times, and the architect of an alliance with France that ensured the colonies' independence from Great Britain. A much-admired figure in politics, this legendary American was a scientific and engineering genius, too.

The list and breadth of his inventions are astonishing. Let's start with electricity, which Franklin did not invent. But he did grasp its properties, coining several terms, such as 'battery', 'charge' and 'conductor', in the process. He applied his understanding to invent the lightning conductor, a metal device that protected houses from the 'mischief' of lightning.

Franklin could not see clearly up close. When he invented bifocals – glasses with distinct upper and lower halves, one for distance, one for reading – he had his own condition in mind. To advance his love for swimming, he built fins that attached to the hands. And when he noticed, after eight transatlantic crossings, that speed was affected by the Gulf Stream, he mapped that critical coastal current.

Then there was the Franklin stove. This iron structure provided better airflow and longer-lasting heat than a fireplace did. He also designed the glass armonica, a musical instrument made of glass bowls colour-coded by note. And he built an odometer to record the distance carriage wheels travelled.

Where did he get the time?



Benjamin Franklin writing

## Text Marking

Tick to identify the author's purpose.

- ☐ to entertain (E)
- ☐ to inform (I)
- ☐ to persuade (P)

Underline text clues for each purpose. Write E, I or P in the margin beside each clue.

# He Did All That?

► Answer each question. Give evidence from the essay.

1 Someone who is described as **pivotal** (paragraph 1) is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A flexible and strong
- B central or essential
- C political or philosophical
- D nearsighted or farsighted

What in the text helped you answer? \_\_\_\_\_

2 Which is the most likely purpose for the last sentence of the essay?

- A to encourage readers to response to the essay
- B to urge readers to learn more about Benjamin Franklin
- C to suggest that Franklin may have invented a type of clock or watch
- D to emphasise the remarkable number of Franklin's accomplishments

What in the text helped you answer? \_\_\_\_\_

3 Why does the author put the word **mischief** (paragraph 2) within quotation marks?

4 Look back at your markings regarding author's purpose. Summarise the author's purpose for writing this essay.