

# Research Project

For this activity you will be researching an Inventor related to Engineering Technology. Your research must be **no more** than one page and **no less** than 1/2 page of computer generated text. Your research will be collected, graded and then returned to you to keep in your Technology Notebooks. (It is your responsibility to store your work in a safe place, you will need it for a later assignment!) With the research you gather, you will eventually create a web page as a way of presenting your topic. I recommend looking at the examples on the Engineering Technology web site to get some ideas. Your web pages will eventually be published on the school web site and 6th grade students will use them to complete various technology projects. Keep in mind that this is a two-part assignment. For now, you are only to complete the research portion of the assignment. We will learn how to make a web page as a group later on.

## DIRECTIONS

You can do your research any way you see fit, but make sure you gather all the information listed under "**requirements**" and make sure the information is accurate. Try to make your web page fun and interesting to browse by finding interesting facts and/or neat pictures. Remember, 6th graders will be looking at this info, so think of a strategy that will keep them interested. As you are researching your topic, look for other interesting things that relate to your topic. (Later you will have to create links, and if you remember where you saw the interesting info, it will be easy to go back to get it.) Make a reference list of all the web addresses, books, periodicals, etc. that you used to gather your information. Refer to the "**How to make a Bibliography**" worksheet if you are not sure how to site references. Save all of your work to a disk and then print the final copy of your research and submit it to Mr. Whitman by the determined due date.

## HINTS

There are many ways to get information for a research project. You could use the library, periodicals, interviews, or the easiest and most popular way now is the Internet. If you choose to use the Internet, then check out the Engineering Technology web site for useful references, especially if you are having trouble finding information. You should find plenty of links that have information about inventors. For starters go to the following address:

[http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/bigelow/engineering\\_technology/](http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/bigelow/engineering_technology/)

Click on: "**For Students**" Here you will find links to information about inventors and also pre-made web buttons, backgrounds and graphics that you can import onto your web page.

## IMPORTANT

Simply printing an existing web site will not be acceptable for this assignment. The web research you hand in to me must be edited. You probably will not want, or need, all the information you gather, so weed out the boring stuff. I recommend using a word processing program, such as Microsoft Word or Claris Works, to type the information. (If you save a copy of your research to a disk, you will be able to copy and paste your information directly into the your web page later on. This makes creating your web page Real Easy!) Remember younger students will use this information, make it fun and interesting for them.

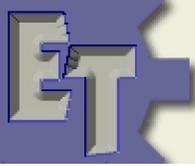
## Research Requirements / Points

- |    |  |           |
|----|--|-----------|
| 1. | Full name of the inventor                              | 10 Points |
| 2. | Date the inventor was born and when the inventor died. | 10 Points |
| 3. | A time line of important events in the person's life.  | 20 Points |
| 4. | The device(s) or techniques(s) he / she invented       | 10 Points |
| 5. | 1-2 paragraph biography of the inventor                | 30 Points |
| 6. | A complete and accurate Bibliography (See hand-out)    | 20 Points |

## IMPORTANT!

- Your research **must be computer generated and printed**, no less that **1/2 page** and no more than **one page**, and should be presented in a format similar to that of the research example given.
- A picture of the inventor or invention is **not** required for the research part of this project. We will get a picture later when we actually make the web pages. If you see a picture on line while researching make a note of where it was.
- Your research will be collected, graded, and then given back to you. It is **your** responsibility to keep it in your Tech. notebook until you need it. If you saved the file to a disk, you can store the disk in your notebook as well.
- Any pictures or links **should** be stored on a disk or written down on the worksheet given to you. (See "**Getting pictures from the web**" hand-out if you need help)

**Research Due Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



# Research Worksheet

**This is a worksheet ONLY! The final draft must be computer generated**

**Full name of the Inventor:** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Lifespan of the inventor:** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Time line of important events in the inventor's life:**

Date	Event
_____	_____.
_____	_____.
_____	_____.
_____	_____.
_____	_____.
_____	_____.
_____	_____.
_____	_____.

**The device(s) or technique(s) he/she invented:** \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Biography of the inventor:** \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Bibliography of resources used to gather information:** \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Links, Photos, notes, etc.:**

**Web address**

_____	_____.
_____	_____.
_____	_____.
_____	_____.
_____	_____.

# Benjamin Franklin

My Life has been good! I have accomplished all that I have possibly wanted and more! I have helped the colonists gain freedom, helped to shape the nation, and set-up it's government. I have done well.

I was born to my parents (Josiah and Abiah) one January 17, 1706 in Boston. I was one of 17 children, I being the 15th. At the age of 8 I went to grammar school until I was 10. Then I went to work for my father, making candles. I found his work boring so at 13 I went to work for my brother, James, as a printer. I wrote articles for my brother as "anonymous" because he wouldn't have printed them otherwise.

I ran away to Philadelphia at age 15 because I had an argument with my brother. There I worked several jobs before I moved to London to finish my training as a printer. When I finished my training I moved back to Philadelphia and bought the Pennsylvania Gazette, a weekly paper. It became a huge success. In 1730 I married my wife, Deborah Read.

Over the next 20 years I did many projects and experiments. One project was the first library in the colonies (Philadelphia Library) which I started in 1731. Another thing I did was to publish Poor Richard's Almanac, which was another huge success. In 1736 I started the first fire department and in 1744 I invented the Franklin Stove. In 1747 I started working with electricity and in 1752 I preformed my famous kite experiment.

In 1750 I was elected to the Pennsylvania Assembly. I was elected to postmaster general, where Transformed the Postal Service. When the French and Indian War began, I lobbied for aid for the British. This is where I gained influence in Europe. I lobbied for the Americans while still supporting the British. When war became inevitable, I came back to the colonies. I was a part of the Second Continental Congress. I was a big part of the Revolution. I was one of five people that drafted the Declaration of Independence. I then lobbied in France to gain money for the American Revolution, which was successful. I then helped to write the Treaty of Paris. I also helped write the Constitution. I was the only person to sign the Declaration of Independence, Treaty of Paris, and the Constitution of the United States of America.

I died at the age of 84, on April 17, 1790.

## TIME LINE

- 1706 Born in Boston, Massachusetts on January 17
- 1728 Opens his own Printing Office in Philadelphia
- 1729 Becomes sole owner and publisher of the Pennsylvania Gazette
- 1747 First writings of electrical experimentation; organizes the first Militia
- 1752 In June, performs famous kite experiment; Death of Ben's mother, Abiah Folger Franklin; Founds first American fire insurance company
- 1776 Signs the Declaration of Independence; Presides at Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention; Sails to France as American Commissioner
- 1778 Negotiates and signs Treaty of Alliance with France
- 1782 Negotiates, with John Adams and John Jay, the Treaty of Peace with Great Britain
- 1790 At age 84, Benjamin Franklin dies in Philadelphia on April 17

## INVENTIONS

Bifocals  
Catheter  
Franklin Stove  
Glass Armonica  
Lightning Rod  
Odometer

## REFERENCES (Bibliography)

Wordl Book Encyclopedia Vol. 4  
[www.franklinmint.com](http://www.franklinmint.com)  
<http://www.fi.edu/franklin/>

## LINKS

<http://www.bigelowmiddleschool.com/programs/Teched/engineering/>  
<http://www.surfnetkids.com/franklin.htm>  
A great site for kids and teachers.