

ORAL QUIZ ON BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

This quiz is based on *Benjamin Franklin, A Man of Many Talents*. The points and level of detail given below are those that an upper-grammar student might be expected to know from his reading, though he may not include every detail. You may also use these points to prompt your student.

The Life of Benjamin Franklin

1. When and where was Benjamin Franklin born?
On January 17, 1706, Benjamin was born in Boston, Massachusetts.
2. How many brothers and sisters did Benjamin Franklin have?
Benjamin had seventeen siblings!
3. What trade did he learn from his brother?
Benjamin became a printer's apprentice to his brother James.
4. When he was older and living in Philadelphia, Benjamin wrote a book called *Poor Richard's Almanac*. What kind of book was it?
Poor Richard's Almanac was a book in which Benjamin wrote jokes, riddles, and observations about the weather and the stars.
5. How did Benjamin prove that lightning is electricity?
On a windy, stormy day in June of 1752, Benjamin and his son decided to fly a kite with an experiment in mind. He placed a metal wire at the top of the kite and then attached a key to the end of the string which he held. A lightning bolt flashed, hit the wire and traveled down the string to the key, giving Benjamin a shock. With this experiment he had proved that lightning was electricity.
6. What was the name of the newspaper that Benjamin started in his printing shop?
Benjamin wrote and printed the Pennsylvania Gazette.
7. Name one accomplishment Benjamin achieved while living in Philadelphia.
Any of the following are acceptable and you might have different ones as well: He started a library, the first fire department, a college, the first public hospital. He helped govern the colony as a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly and became the first postmaster in the colonies. He invented many things, such as the Franklin stove, bifocals, the odometer, and a musical instrument called an armonica.
8. On July 4, 1776, what famous document did Benjamin and other lawmakers sign in order to declare the American colonies free and independent?
In 1776, Benjamin signed the Declaration of Independence.
9. What is the name of another famous document that Benjamin helped to create?
In 1787, Benjamin joined the Constitutional Convention and helped write the Constitution.
10. When did Benjamin Franklin die and how old was he?
Benjamin Franklin died on April 17, 1790, at the age of eighty-four.

1. WHEN AND WHERE WAS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BORN?

FAILING	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT
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COMMENTS: _____

2. HOW MANY BROTHERS AND SISTERS DID BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HAVE?

FAILING	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT
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COMMENTS: _____

3. WHAT TRADE DID HE LEARN FROM HIS BROTHER?

FAILING	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT
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COMMENTS: _____

4. WHAT KIND OF BOOK WAS *POOR RICHARD'S ALMANAC*?

FAILING POOR FAIR GOOD EXCELLENT

COMMENTS: _____

5. HOW DID BENJAMIN PROVE THAT LIGHTNING IS ELECTRICITY?

FAILING POOR FAIR GOOD EXCELLENT

COMMENTS: _____

6. WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE NEWSPAPER THAT BENJAMIN STARTED IN HIS PRINTING SHOP?

FAILING POOR FAIR GOOD EXCELLENT

COMMENTS: _____

7. NAME ONE ACCOMPLISHMENT BENJAMIN ACHIEVED WHILE LIVING IN PHILADELPHIA.

FAILING	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT
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COMMENTS: _____

8. ON JULY 4, 1776, WHAT FAMOUS DOCUMENT DID BENJAMIN AND OTHER LAWMAKERS SIGN IN ORDER TO DECLARE THE AMERICAN COLONIES FREE AND INDEPENDENT?

FAILING	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT
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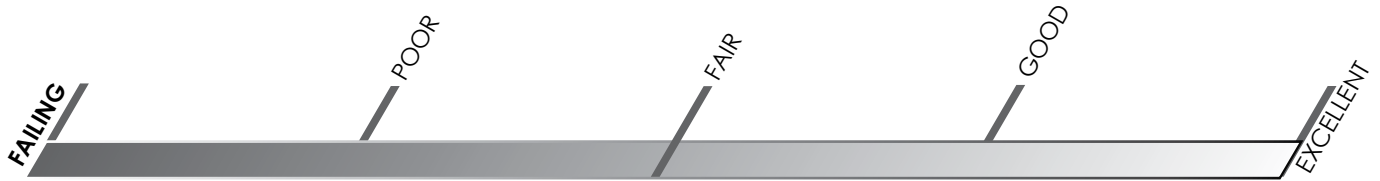
COMMENTS: _____

9. WHAT IS THE NAME OF ANOTHER FAMOUS DOCUMENT THAT BENJAMIN HELPED TO CREATE?

FAILING	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT
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COMMENTS: _____

10. WHEN DID BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DIE, AND HOW OLD WAS HE?



COMMENTS: _____
