

Independence National Historical Park



Benjamin Franklin

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b. Boston, 1/17/1706; d. Philadelphia, 4/17/1790.

Franklin, perhaps the most famous American during the 1700's, was a printer, inventor, scientist, writer, and politician. Some of his inventions, such as bifocal glasses and the lightning rod, are still used today. He was a key figure in the creation of the U.S., helping to write the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution.

*"If you wou'd not be forgotten
As soon as you are dead and rotten,
Either write things worth reading,
or do things worth the writing."*