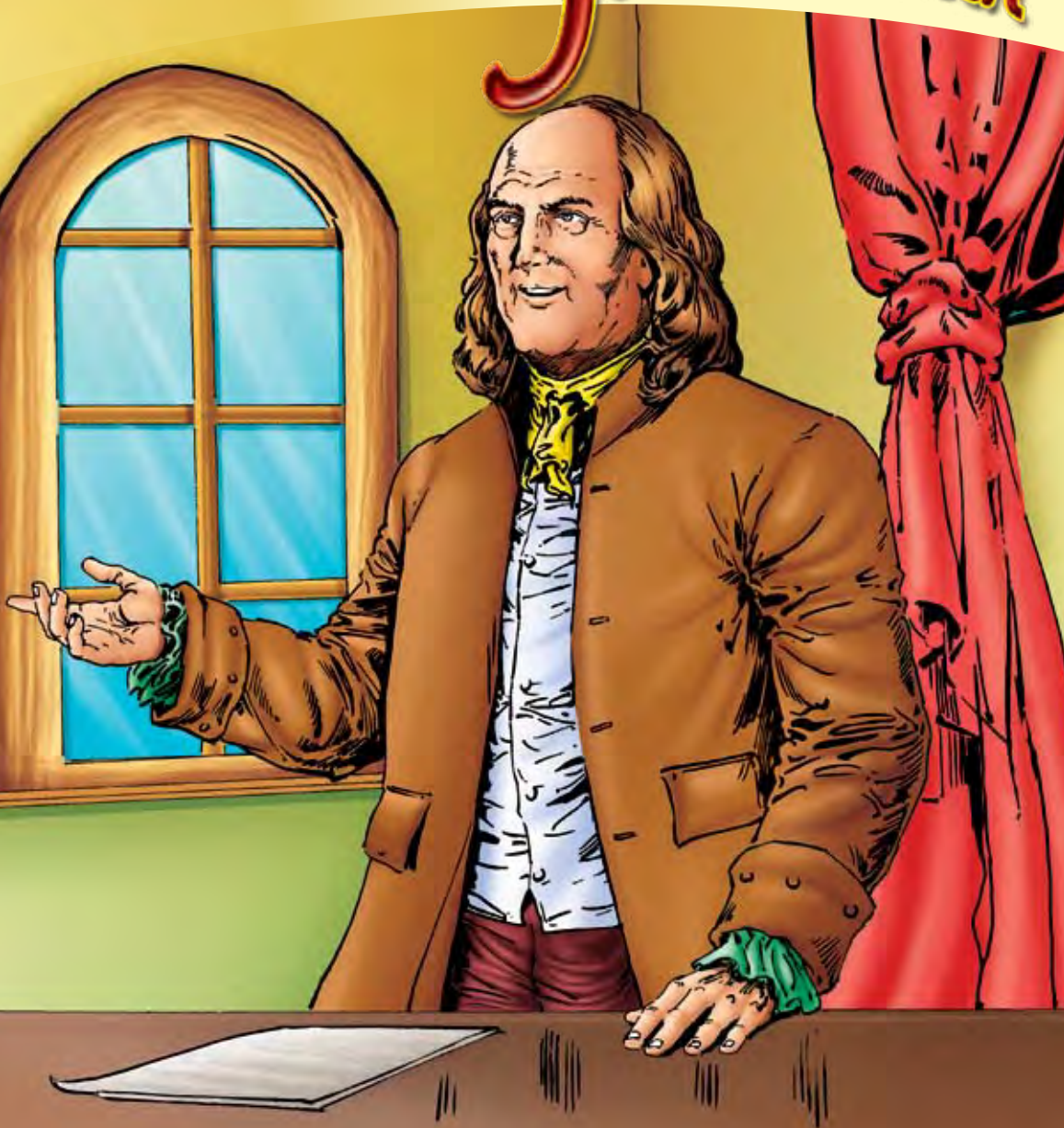


GRAPHIC  
BIOGRAPHY

# Benjamin Franklin

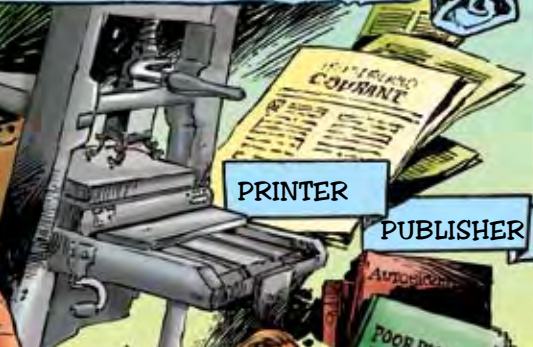




Benjamin Franklin was a great American. During his long and useful life he played many roles—printer, writer, inventor, scientist, good citizen, statesman, diplomat, humanitarian.



DIPLOMAT



PRINTER

PUBLISHER



STATESMAN



WRITER



GOOD  
CITIZEN



INVENTOR

SCIENTIST

Benjamin Franklin was born January 17, 1706, in the city of Boston, Massachusetts.

My tenth son and fifteenth child, how wonderful!



Ben's father, Josiah Franklin, had come to the colonies from England in 1682.

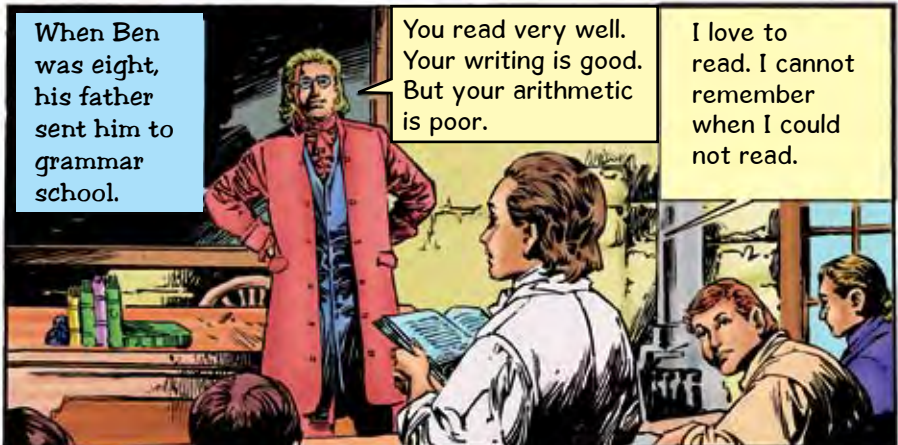
Josiah set up a soapmaking and candlemaking shop in Boston.



When Ben was eight, his father sent him to grammar school.

You read very well. Your writing is good. But your arithmetic is poor.

I love to read. I cannot remember when I could not read.



But his father only had enough money to let Ben go to school for two years.

I'm sorry, but money is scarce. You will have to help me now.

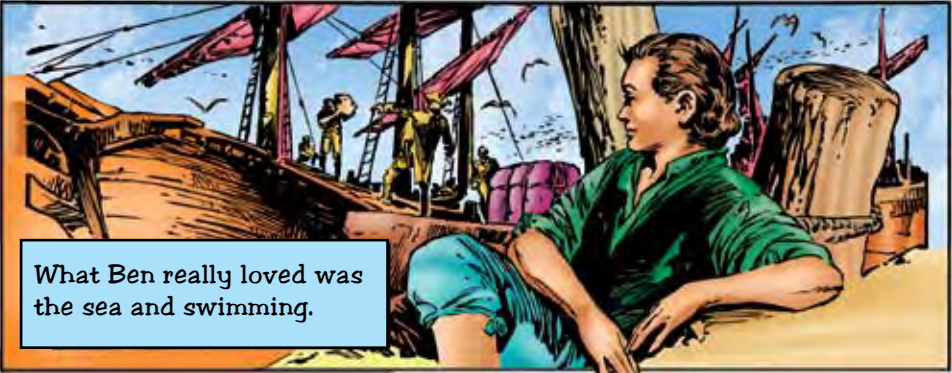


Ben did not like making soap or candles, so his father showed him other crafts.

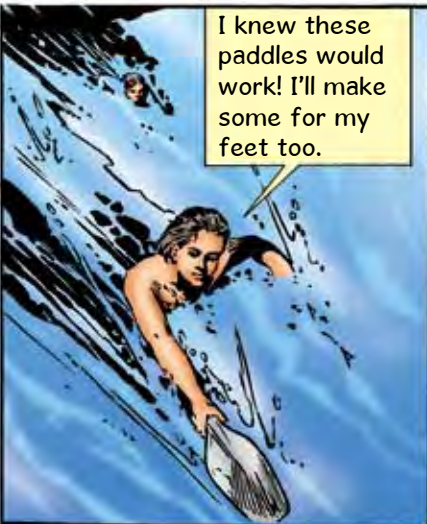
I do not like this kind of work, father.



What Ben really loved was the sea and swimming.

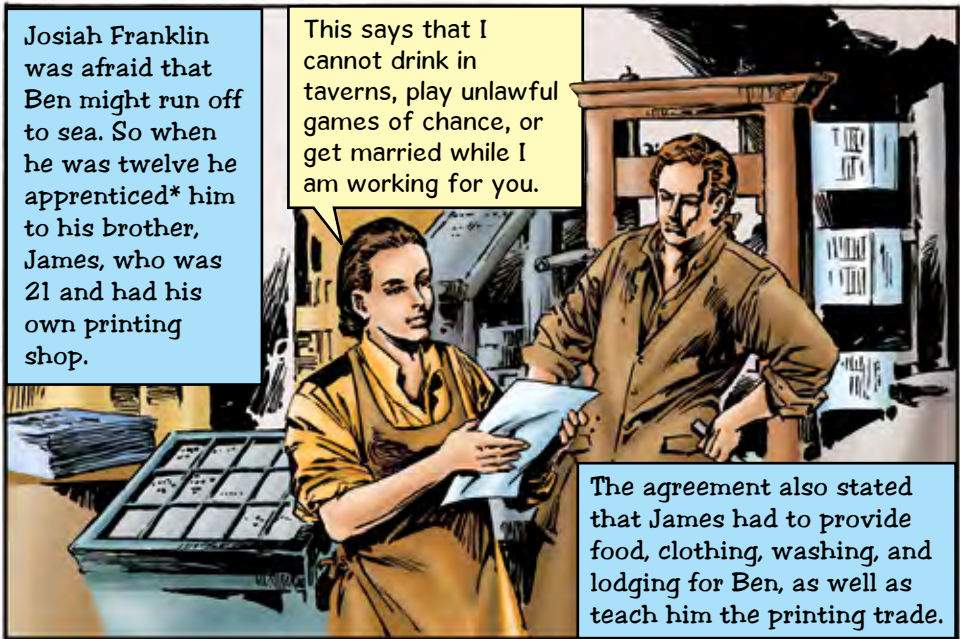


I knew these paddles would work! I'll make some for my feet too.



Ben, you are always inventing something.





\* to work for another to learn a skill or trade

When James Franklin started the *New England Courant*, Boston already had two newspapers. Both of them were very dull.

We need some lively articles that will make people think!

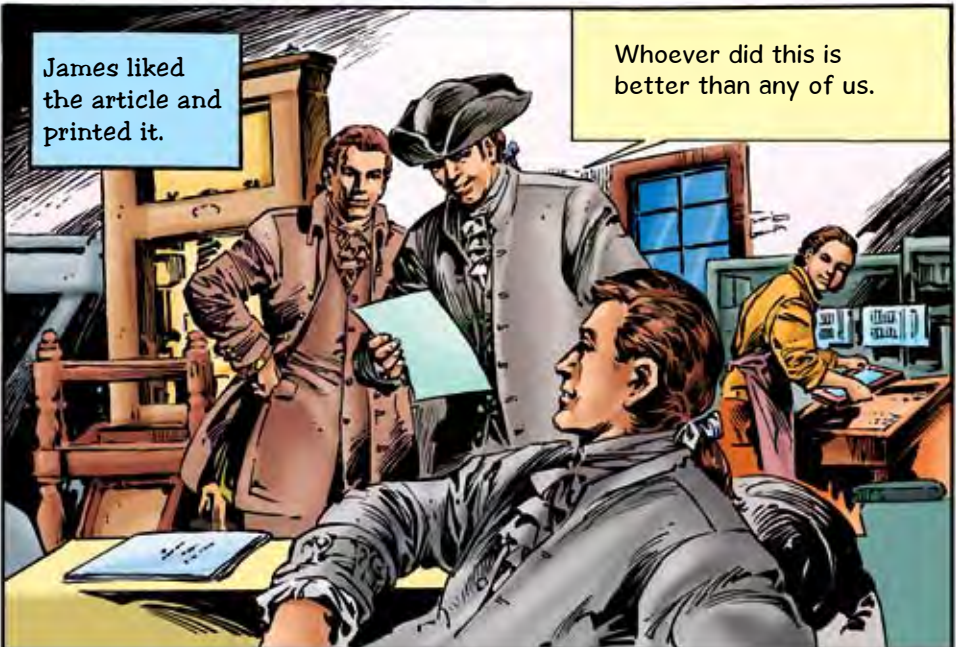


I'll sign the name Silence Dogood.

Ben knew his brother wouldn't let him write for the paper, so he wrote an article and signed it Silence Dogood. He slipped it under the door of the shop.



James liked the article and printed it.



Whoever did this is better than any of us.

Ben wrote thirteen more articles under the name of Silence Dogood. James printed them, and the readers loved them. But when Ben admitted that he was the author, James was very angry. He told Ben his job was to work the presses, not to write.

Some of James' articles criticized the government. He was jailed for one month.

This is unfair!  
There is no such thing as public liberty without freedom of speech.



To prevent having his paper supervised by the government, James published his paper under Ben's name.



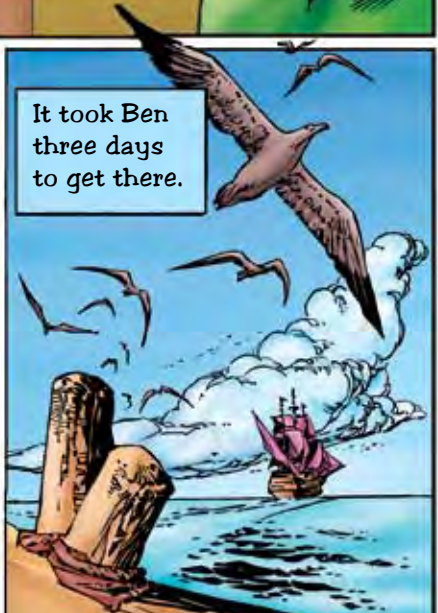
I will look up your apprentice agreement. We can make a new secret agreement.

But James still would not let Ben write for the paper. Ben was very unhappy.

I am going to run away. I'll sell my books and buy a boat ticket to New York.



It took Ben three days to get there.



There was only one printer in New York. He had no work for a journeyman printer.\* So Ben took a boat to New Jersey.

\* an experienced and reliable worker after having been an apprentice

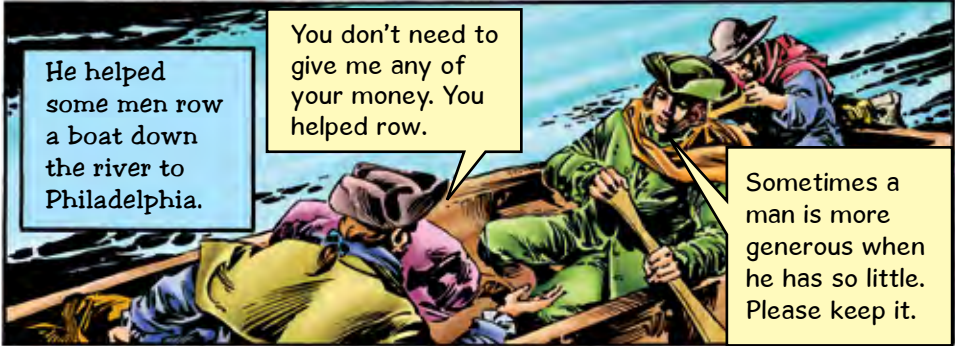
He walked fifty miles across New Jersey in the rain. When he reached the Delaware River, Ben had only a dollar and a shilling left.



I'm glad I've read so much. Now I have something to think about.

He helped some men row a boat down the river to Philadelphia.

You don't need to give me any of your money. You helped row.



Sometimes a man is more generous when he has so little. Please keep it.

Ben bought three pennies worth of bread at the bakery and got three large, puffy rolls.



The young lady watching from the doorway was Deborah Read, Ben's future wife.

He gave away two loaves of bread to a woman and her child. It was Sunday. Ben followed a group of Quakers to their meetinghouse.

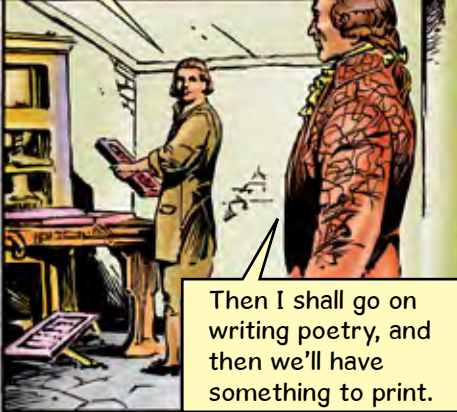


Tired from his hard traveling, he soon fell fast asleep inside.



Young Franklin first worked for Andrew Bradford, and then helped Samuel Keimer start up a print shop.

I'm afraid, sir, that it will take me quite a while to get this press and worn out type in working condition.



Then I shall go on writing poetry, and then we'll have something to print.

Keimer had a house but no furniture; he had Ben live at the Read's.

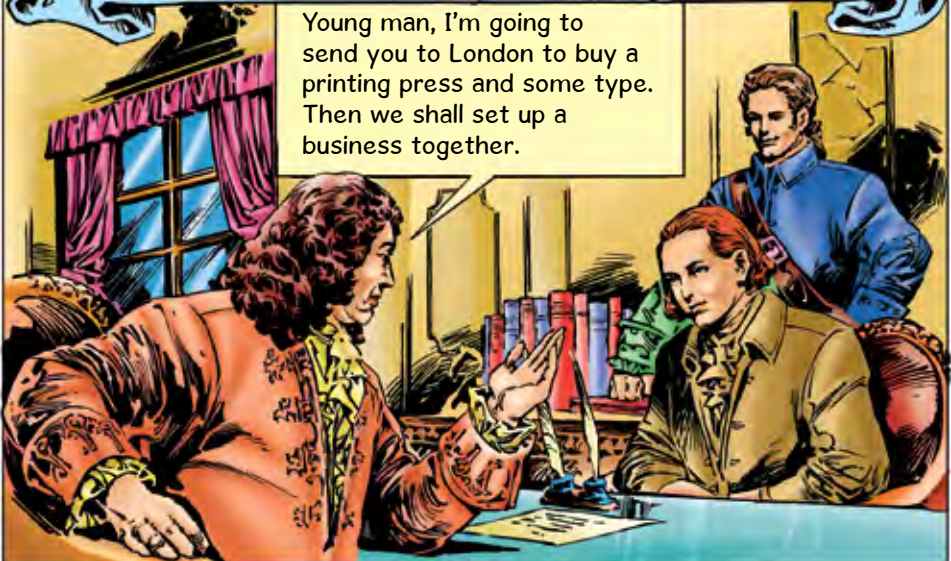
You do not look like the same person I saw arriving in Philadelphia.



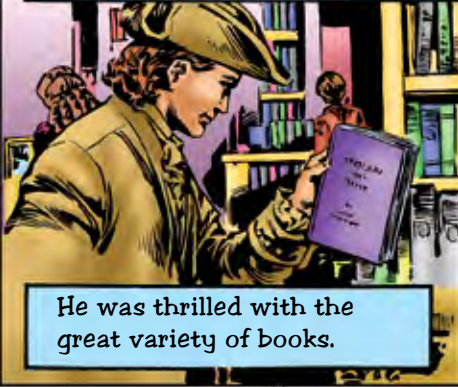
My good clothes have at last arrived by boat.

Ben's brother-in-law, Robert Holmes, was the captain of a trading ship. He found Ben in Philadelphia and persuaded him to go to Boston to visit his parents. Then Captain Holmes introduced Ben to Governor Keith.

Young man, I'm going to send you to London to buy a printing press and some type. Then we shall set up a business together.



In London, Franklin learned that Governor Keith was a dreamer, who had no money or credit. So Ben worked for eighteen months as a journeyman printer. He loved London.

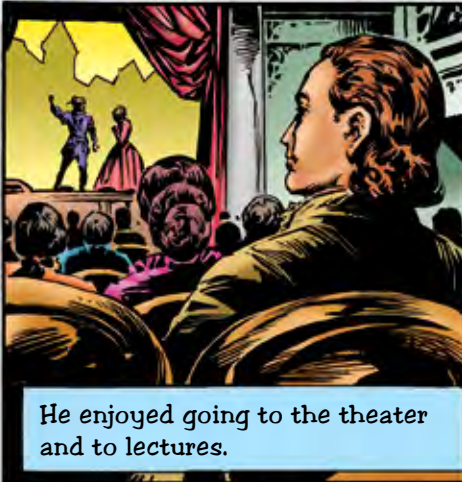


He was thrilled with the great variety of books.

I say that those who disagree with the church should be able to worship as they please!



He was stirred by the exciting conversations in the taverns.



He enjoyed going to the theater and to lectures.

That young colonist swims like a fish!



And he taught many admiring Englishmen how to swim.



The trip back to the colonies took fifty-one days. Ben took notes of his observations of sea life, marine vegetation, and eclipses.