

Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston in 1706. He had 16 brothers and sisters. His family could not afford to send him to school after he was 10 years old. So he taught himself, from books. He was interested in everything. He worked as a printer. He also published a newspaper and an almanac full of wit and wisdom. He helped to set up a postal system in America. He did scientific experiments. Some of them



were dangerous. With a kite in a thunderstorm he proved that lightning was electricity. He invented the lightning rod. He made bifocal (two-lens) spectacles. He helped write the Declaration of Independence in the year 1776 and signed the Constitution. Franklin went to France as the United States ambassador. He died in 1790.

**afford:** avoir les moyens de  
**kite:** cerf-volant  
**lightning rod:** paratonnerre  
**lightning:** foudre  
**printer:** imprimeur  
**prove:** prouver  
**publish:** publier  
**set up:** fonder  
**spectacles:** lunettes  
**teach, taught taught:** enseigner  
**thunderstorm:** orage  
**wisdom:** sagesse  
**wit:** esprit

*Translate:*

1. Nous n'avions pas les moyens d'acheter le livre. ....
2. Elle est intéressée par tout. ....
3. Je travaille comme imprimeur.\*) .....
4. Il est ambassadeur des USA \*).....
5. Les expériences peuvent être dangereuses. ....
6. Il alla en France. ....
7. Il signa la Constitution.....

\*) Quand on parle des métiers en anglais, toujours mettre l'article:  
 I'm a teacher. He works as a postman.

*Change into the passive voice:*

Mets les phrases à la forme passive

- Franklin inventa le paratonnerre. - ... *The lightning rod was invented by Franklin*.....
- Franklin signa la Constitution. ....
- Franklin fabriqua les lunettes bifocales. ....
- Franklin publia un journal.....
- Franklin écrivit des parties de la Déclaration d'Indépendance.....
- .....