

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 (Jahrbuch) 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 (Unabhängigkeitserklärung) in the year 1776 and signed the Constitution (Verfassung). Franklin went to France as the United States ambassador. He died in 1790.

- afford: sich leisten
- ambassador: Botschafter
- kite: Drachen
- lightning rod: Blitzableiter
- lightning: Blitz
- printer: Drucker
- prove: beweisen
- publish: publizieren
- scientific: naturwissenschaftl.
- set up: aufstellen
- sign: unterschreiben
- spectacles: Brille
- teach, taught taught: lehren
- thunderstorm: Gewitter
- wisdom: Weisheit
- wit: Geist, Witz

### Translate:

1. Wir konnten uns das Buch nicht leisten.....
2. Sie ist an allem interessiert. ....
3. Ich arbeite als Drucker.\*).....
4. Er ist Botschafter der USA\* ).....
5. Experimente können gefährlich sein. ....
6. Er ging nach Frankreich. ....
7. Er unterschrieb die Verfassung. ....

\*) Bei Berufsbez. im Engl. immer Artikel:  
Ich bin Lehrerin: I'm a teacher.  
He works as a postman.

### Change into the passive voice:

Setze die Sätze ins Passiv:

- Franklin invented the lightning rod. - ...*The lightning rod was invented by Franklin*.....
- Franklin signed the Constitution. ....
- Franklin made bifocal spectacles. ....
- Franklin published a newspaper.....
- Franklin wrote parts of the Declaration of Independence.....
- .....