

Additional Vocabulary and Comprehension Questions

Q: Describe some of the ways Ben Franklin demonstrated leadership, even as a boy. [chapter 1]

A: when he wanted to build a pier, all the boys joined in; whatever game he set out to do, others followed

Q: What two subjects does Ben dislike in school? Was this true all his life? [chapter 2]

A: Latin and arithmetic; no - he learned Latin after speaking Spanish, Italian and French. For math, he puzzled out for himself.

Q: How does Ben teach himself to write? [chapter 3]

A: he would read a chapter, close the book and several days later, rewrite the chapter. He then compared his chapter to the original. To add interest to his writing, he turned paragraphs into verse, waited a while, and turned the verse back into paragraphs to expand his vocabulary.

Q: Why does Ben run away? [chapter 3]

A: his brother frees him from his apprenticeship, but abuses him and keeps him from a job in Boston

Q: Why does Ben go to Philadelphia? Is it an easy trip? [chapter 4]

A: there was a possibility of a job; no

Q: What does Ben study when he goes to England and when he returns to the colonies? [chapter 5]

A: how to become a successful printer

Q: What items does Ben print? [chapter 5]

A: money on copperplate printing press, Pennsylvania Gazette, government printing, and *Poor Richard's Almanac*

Q: What are some of Ben's inventions or observations? [chapter 7]

A: a heating stove; artificial fertilizer and crop insurance; planted the first willow trees in America; observed that people should wear light colored clothes in summer; knew perspiration helps cool people off and that colds spread from person to person; identified lead poisoning; invented bifocals and the stepladder; noticed the Gulf Stream; made the glass harmonica; thought electricity was a single fluid with positive and negative charges; invented the electric battery and lightning rod; and knew electricity was the same as lightning

Q: Since Ben got along with everyone, what treaties does he help make? [chapter 8]

A: one with Native Americans, none with the British, although he helped keep the peace for a time

Q: Why does Ben go to Canada? Did he accomplish much? [chapter 9]

A: they did not support the colonies, so Ben went to explain why they should; no, they remained tied to Britain

Q: What famous document does Ben sign? [chapter 9]

A: the Declaration of Independence

Vocabulary

Louis XVI: ruled as King of France during the time of the American Revolution, who supported the American fight for independence from Great Britain

Marie Antoinette: Queen of France during Louis XVI's reign

Voltaire: prolific French writer who was associated with writing many works during the period of Enlightenment, which also helped influence the French and American revolutions

Q: How do the French greet Ben? [chapter 10]

A: with overwhelming support, as for a grand hero they are inspired by the American Revolution - they love him and put his picture everywhere, try to see him, follow him, etc.

Q: How did Ben make so many friends? [chapter 11]

A: he loved people, he liked to be with them to play games, and to talk to exchange ideas, and to listen

Q: How did Ben serve America during the Revolution? [chapter 11]

A: in many ways, but mainly he took a dangerous trip to France where he stayed for nine years to persuade the French to help the colonists, then negotiated the peace treaty between England and the U.S.

Q: Which of the many accomplishments of Ben Franklin impresses you most? [chapter 12]