Name: Date: Score: / 6

Benjamin Franklin: Reading Comprehension

Nonfiction: History · about 200 words

Read the passage. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

⚡ Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston in 1706. He was the 15th of 17 children. His family could afford only about two years of school, so Ben taught himself by reading every book he could find. At 12, he began working in his older brother's print shop.

As a young man, Franklin moved to Philadelphia and started his own printing business. He published a popular yearly book called Poor Richard's Almanack, full of weather predictions and wise sayings like "Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise."

Franklin was also a curious scientist and inventor. In a famous experiment in 1752, he is said to have flown a kite during a thunderstorm to show that lightning is a form of electricity. This led him to invent the lightning rod, which protects buildings from lightning strikes. He also invented bifocal glasses and a stove that heated homes better.

Franklin helped found the first public lending library in America and a volunteer fire company in Philadelphia. Later, he helped write and signed the Declaration of Independence. He also traveled to France to win support for the American Revolution. Today his face appears on the hundred-dollar bill.

1. **Main idea:** What is this passage mostly about?

   A. the life and achievements of Benjamin Franklin B. how to fly a kite C. how printing presses work D. the history of Boston

2. **Detail:** How did Franklin learn as a boy?

   A. He did not learn. B. He went to college for many years. C. He taught himself by reading. D. He had a private teacher.

3. **Detail:** What was Poor Richard's Almanack?

   A. a library B. a kite C. a newspaper in France D. a yearly book of weather predictions and sayings

4. **Detail:** What did Franklin show with his kite experiment?

   A. Wind is invisible. B. Rain is made of ice. C. Lightning is a form of electricity. D. Kites can fly in storms safely.

5. **Detail:** Which of these did Franklin invent?

   A. the lightning rod B. the airplane C. the light bulb D. the telephone

6. **Inference:** Why do you think Franklin is remembered today? Give one reason.

ANSWER KEY

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6. **Inference:** Why do you think Franklin is remembered today? Give one reason.
   He was an inventor, a scientist, and a founder who helped start the United States.