Now let’s begin with a question:

Who was Benjamin Franklin?

was he ...
a) The first man on the moon
b) One of the greatest trumpet players that ever lived
c) One of the founding fathers of the USA
d) The man who discovered America
e) The greatest baseball player of all time
c) A founding father of the USA who helped to write the declaration of independence.
Did you get that question right?

Well, here’s another question for you?

What did Benjamin Franklin do?

did he ...
a) Marry his childhood sweetheart
b) Become a printer not a clergyman
c) Write under the name of Silence Dogood
d) Walk with his son out into a thunderstorm to capture Lightning
e) All of the above
Well, you couldn’t get that one wrong because all of the answers were right.

e) All of the above

As well as a-d

Benjamin Franklin was a very clever man!

And the answer is:
Benjamin Franklin playing chess with Lady Howe
Benjamin Franklin was born in a three-story house in Boston on the 17th January 1706.

His house -)
Activity:

Find Boston on a map of the USA?

Boston Harbour
1700s ---)
Activity: What do you know about:

1. The Boston Red Sox
2. The Boston Tea Party
Benjamin Franklin was born into a rather large family. He was tenth (10) in a line of 17 children. His family :)
His father, Josiah, a soap maker, wanted him to be a clergyman.

But the cost of the education was far too high.

A clergyman [priest] -)
So he became a printer, apprenticed to his brother, James.

an apprentice Printer -) (a person being trained to be a printer)
Benjamin Franklin wanted to be a writer,
His brother James, wouldn’t publish him.
So …

Candlestick :-) 
Late at night by candle light, he wrote in secret …
He wrote under a non-de-plume, a different name from his own, so no one would know who he was!

Can you guess what his non-de-plume was?
... exactly, Silence Dogood, a fictional widow.

This fictional widow filled her letters with advice.

She was very critical of the world around her.

She was especially critical of the way women were being treated.
After he had written the letter, he would sneak down to the print shop at night and push it under the door. 

In the morning, not knowing who wrote it, his brother published it.

The letters were a smash hit, and everyone was curious to know who this woman, “Silence Dogood” was?
The cat in gloves catches no mice

Benjamin Franklin
At 17, Benjamin ran away from home, which you weren’t supposed to do until you were 18.

He boarded a boat bound for New York; walked across New Jersey, then took another boat to Philadelphia.

Philadelphia Harbour 1700-
The Biography of Benjamin Franklin

Activity:
From Boston on a map of the USA find New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia?

First American President, George Washington’s inauguration in 1793 at Congress Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania --)
Activity: What do you know about:

1. Philadelphia Eagles

2. Philadelphia Zoo
He arrived in Philadelphia wet, bedraggled, and messy.

A young girl saw him; thought him a bit odd-looking,

Benjamin became a boarder at the young girl’s home.

Deborah Read
He instantly fell in love with the young lady and proposed marriage, even though she was only 15 years of age, and he was only 17.

Coppess House, Greenville --

Deborah Read
Deborah was more than willing to marry her odd-looking boarder.

But her mother would simply not agree.

Her reasons ...

Deborah Read

Leftwich House, Greenville --)
He was financially unstable, (which meant he didn’t have much money);

and he was going to London. (a long, long way from Philadelphia)

Deborah Read

Benjamin Franklin National Institute --)
Activity: From Philadelphia in the USA find London, England in the UK?

St Paul’s Cathedral, London
Activity:
What do you know about:

1. Big Ben clock, London

2. Tower Bridge, London
In 1724 he went to London, England for the Governor of Pennsylvania.

He was only supposed to go for a day or two, but he was forced to spend several months there.

He used the time wisely. He worked as a printer and learnt the trade well.

18th Century Printing Press -)
By the time he returned, Deborah Read, the love of his life, had gone out and married another man.
Who is Rich?

He who rejoices in his portion.

Benjamin Franklin
Heartbroken, Benjamin took out a loan and started a printing business.

To make his business successful he had to work night and day.
In 1728 Benjamin fathered a child, William. His mother is unknown.

In 1730 Deborah’s husband ran off and left her.

She was now free to marry her childhood sweetheart.
In 1730 Benjamin Franklin married Deborah Read.

They adopted William.

They had a son who died of smallpox.

In 1743 they had a daughter named after Deborah’s mother. Sarah Franklin Bache

Deborah died in 1774, 16 years before Benjamin’s death in 1790.
Work as if you were to live 100 years; Pray as if you were to die tomorrow

Benjamin Franklin
1729
Benjamin bought the Pennsylvania Gazette.

His newspaper soon became the most successful in all America.

He began printing political cartoons.

Sample Political Cartoon -)
Also, at this time

He began publishing his own writings in a book:

Can you guess the title?
Exactly,
Poor Richard's Almanack.

Like Silence Dogood,
Richard was
Benjamin Franklin's
non-de-plume

Richard was a poor man
who needed money
to take care
of his moaning wife.
Almanacs are like calendars. They were printed annually (once a year) and contained weather reports, recipes and predicted the future.

Many of Benjamin’s famous sayings were first published in Poor Richard’s Almanac.
Fools need advice most, but wise men only, are the better for it.

Benjamin Franklin
Now here’s a difficult question but I think by now, your up to it:

What did Benjamin Franklin do in Philadelphia?

did he ...
a) Start projects to pave, clean and light Philadelphia's streets

b) Start the Philadelphia Library

c) Organize Philadelphia's Fire brigade

d) Help found the Philadelphia Insurance Co

e) All of the above and more
Well, you couldn’t get that one wrong either because, all of the answers were right.

e) All of the above and more

As well as a-d

Benjamin Franklin was a very busy man indeed!

And the answer is:
Benjamin Franklin had a heart for his community. During the 1730s and 1740s, he launched projects to pave, clean and light Philadelphia's streets. He made people aware of the importance of keeping their city, their houses, including their bedrooms, clean and tidy.
In 1731 books were scarce and very expensive, Benjamin Franklin created the nation's first subscription library.

Membership fees allowed the library to buy books from England for everybody to read.
In 1736 fires, like the great fire of London (1666), were a very dangerous threat because most buildings were made of wood.

Benjamin started Philadelphia's first fire-fighting company, Union Fire.
In 1752 those who suffered fire damage often lost everything they owned. Benjamin helped found the Philadelphia Insurance Co. So those insured wouldn’t lose everything.
An ounce of prevention, is worth a pound of cure.

(Advice for fire-fighting)

Benjamin Franklin
In 1751 recognizing that the city needed a better way of treating their sick, Benjamin brought together a group to start the Pennsylvania Hospital. In the centre, is the original building (Pennsylvania Hospital).
In 1743 to help warm houses efficiently, he invented the Franklin stove.

You could cook food, dry clothes, boil water on this thing.
His other inventions included swim fins, bifocals and the glass armonica.

The glass armonica is a musical instrument that uses a series of glass bowls or goblets of different sizes to produce musical tones by means of friction.

Benjamin Franklin playing a glass armonica
One good husband is worth two good wives; for the scarcer things are, the more they are valued.

Benjamin Franklin
Benjamin Franklin retired in 1749 to work on science, experiments, and inventions.

This led to his most famous experiment of all ...
In June 1752 Benjamin Franklin and his son, William, went out for a walk through a field on a stormy night.

Thunder and lightning crashed and flashed across the sky above their heads.

In their hands they held a kite that flew high into the sky. They were trying to capture the lightning.
Benjamin Franklin wanted to prove that lighting was the same as electricity.

Unfortunately, it had already been proven by French electricians a month before.

But as history recalls, sparks flew that night.
When the well’s dry we know the worth of water

Benjamin Franklin
In 1765 the British Stamp Act taxed everything in the Americas, everything written, everything printed.

This was the last straw!

American colonists got so angry they tarred and feathered some British stamp agents.
Benjamin Franklin managed to persuade the British Parliament to abolish (get rid of) the law.

Then he returned to America.

In 1754 he had proposed a revolution to unite the North American colonies and break free of England.

It was time to make that a reality.
In 1775 five men, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Robert R. Livingston, Roger Sherman, were asked to write a declaration, a letter to England telling them the North American Colonies wanted their independence.
Much of the writing was Thomas Jefferson's; much of the content was Benjamin Franklin's.
In 1776 the Declaration of Independence was signed and sent to England.
Shortly after the declaration of independence was signed, Benjamin sailed to France as ambassador to the Court of Louis XVI.
The French loved him.

He was the man who tamed lightning;

the humble American, who,
dressed like a backwoodsman

was a match for any wit in the world.
Activity: From Philadelphia in the USA find Paris, France?

St Paul’s Cathedral, London
Activity:
What do you know about:

1. The Eiffel Tower, Paris
2. The Louvre, Paris
The Biography of Benjamin Franklin

Court of Louis XVI
In 1778 the government of France signed a Treaty of Alliance with the Americans.

Benjamin Franklin was there in Paris when it was signed.

In 1783 the Americans won their Revolution.
On 30 April 1789, George Washington became first president of the United States of America. He took the oath of office at Federal Hall in New York City.
Now in his late 70s, Benjamin Franklin returned to America.
Wish
not so much
to live long,
as to live well.

Benjamin Franklin
On 17 April 1790, Benjamin Franklin died aged 84.

20,000 people attended his funeral.

However, his electric personality still lights our world today.
Final activity:

If Benjamin Franklin was alive today how old would he be?

Take 1706 away from this year.

Do you know what this year is?

This year - 1706 = ? years old
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