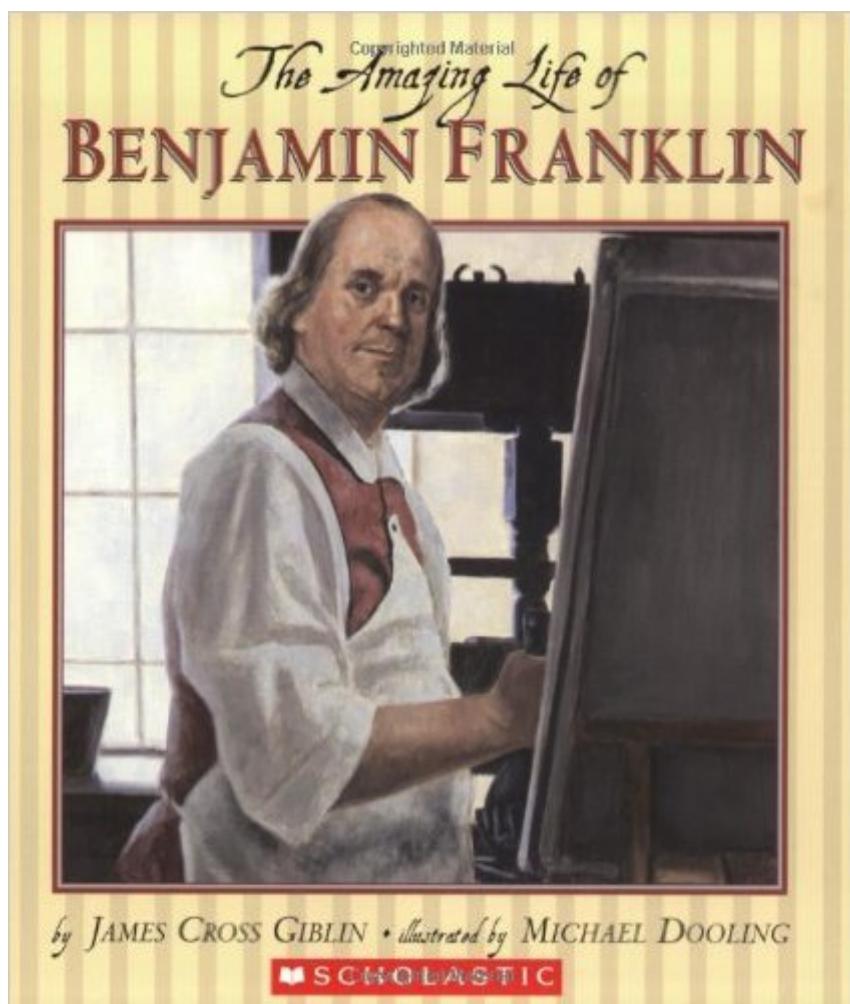


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# The Amazing Life Of Benjamin Franklin



## **Synopsis**

Now available in paperback for the first time, James Cross Giblin and Michael Dooling tell the story of the man known as the "wisest American." Benjamin Franklin was one of seventeen children, and the youngest of 10 sons. To help out with the family, he was put to work when he was 10 years old in his father's candle and soap-making shop. Ben hated making soap and candles. Since he was smart and a good speller and he loved to read, he later went to work in his brother's print shop as an apprentice. He read book after book, and soon began to write himself. By 18, he moved to Philadelphia where he eventually opened his own print shop. By age 28 he published "Poor Richard's Almanac," a best seller in Colonial America.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 880 (What's this?)

Paperback: 48 pages

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Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #117,651 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Literary #55 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Political #93 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > Colonial & Revolutionary

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

What famous person helped start the first library in the American colonies? Who also helped to establish the first fire department in the American colonies? Who helped establish the first hospital in Philadelphia? Who first proved the electricity and lightning were one and the same thing? Even if you didn't guess right, you will probably agree that the man who did all of these things, plus a whole lot more, had to be a very interesting fellow. And he was. In **THE AMAZING LIFE OF BEN FRANKLIN**, James Cross Giblin tells us all about it. Ben was born in Boston, the youngest of ten

sons, and one of seventeen children. When he was ten years old, he started helping out in his father's soap and candlemaking shop, and he absolutely hated it. His father then apprenticed him to his brother, a printer, and printing turned out to be one of the many things that Ben loved to do. In fact, on his tombstone, that is all he wanted said-B. Franklin, a printer. But we all know now that Ben turned out to be one of the most famous and most beloved people in American history-and this is his story. There are great color illustrations. This is the best possible introduction to our own beloved Ben Franklin.

Giblin and Dooling have collaborated to make a perfect picture book biography. Roy Goodman's (leading Ben Franklin historian) expertise makes this book a wealth of information that can assist children in the writing of school reports. This book is so rich with detail. The fact that there is an Illustrator's Note by Dooling makes this a real candidate for at least a Caldecott Honor. I have visited Dooling's web site and now plan to purchase a sketch or original painting from this book! Outstanding!

The Amazing Life of Benjamin Franklin is a biography in a picture book format of Ben Franklin's life. He was one of seventeen children and the youngest son in his family. Starting when he was only ten years old, Ben was sent off to work in order to help provide for his family. He worked in his father's shop making candles and soap. However, he hated this work and decided to use his skills in reading and writing to work for his brother in the print shop. Here, he became an apprentice and soon began to write for himself. The story continues on and tells of how he opens his own print shop as the age of 18. Ten years following this, Franklin wrote and published "Poor Richard's Almanac". Throughout the pages in the book, readers discover Ben Franklin's incredible life as a printer, inventor, and statesmen. I think this educational picture book would be a great one to use in a Literature or Social Studies classroom. It could be used to conduct a research project on influential Americans. It provides accurate information but still draws students in because it reads like an interesting picture book instead of a boring research biography. It would be neat to have the students each pick an accomplishment from Ben's life that they feel is important or significant and present their findings to the class.

The illustrations in this book are one of the finest drawings that I have ever seen in a children's book. It is a wonderful book for a child's library.

A book to learn inventions it's pretty cool

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