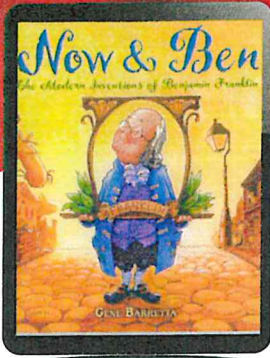


# ANCHOR TEXT



## ✓ GENRE

**Informational text**  
gives facts about a topic.  
As you read, look for:

- ▶ pictures that help explain the topic
- ▶ information about real events and people

## MEET THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

### Gene Barretta

Benjamin Franklin is one of Gene Barretta's heroes. Like his hero, Mr. Barretta is a writer and makes his home in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He even named his son Benjamin.

Sometimes when Mr. Barretta visits schools to talk about his book *Now & Ben*, an actor dressed as Benjamin Franklin goes with him.



# Now & Ben

The Modern Inventions of Ben Franklin



written and illustrated by  
Gene Barretta

## ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why might a person  
from long ago still be  
important today?



**Now** and *then*, we think about Ben.

Dr. Benjamin Franklin, to be precise. And we think about his many **inventions**—inventions he originated more than two hundred years ago.

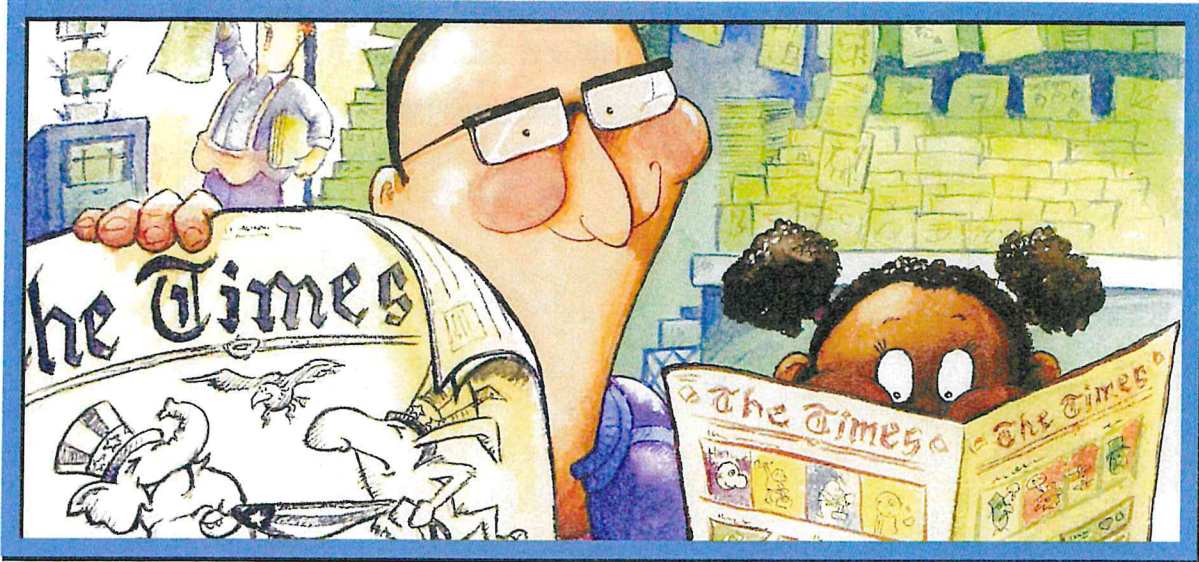
It was as if Ben could see into the future. Almost everything he created is still around today. For instance . . .





# Now...

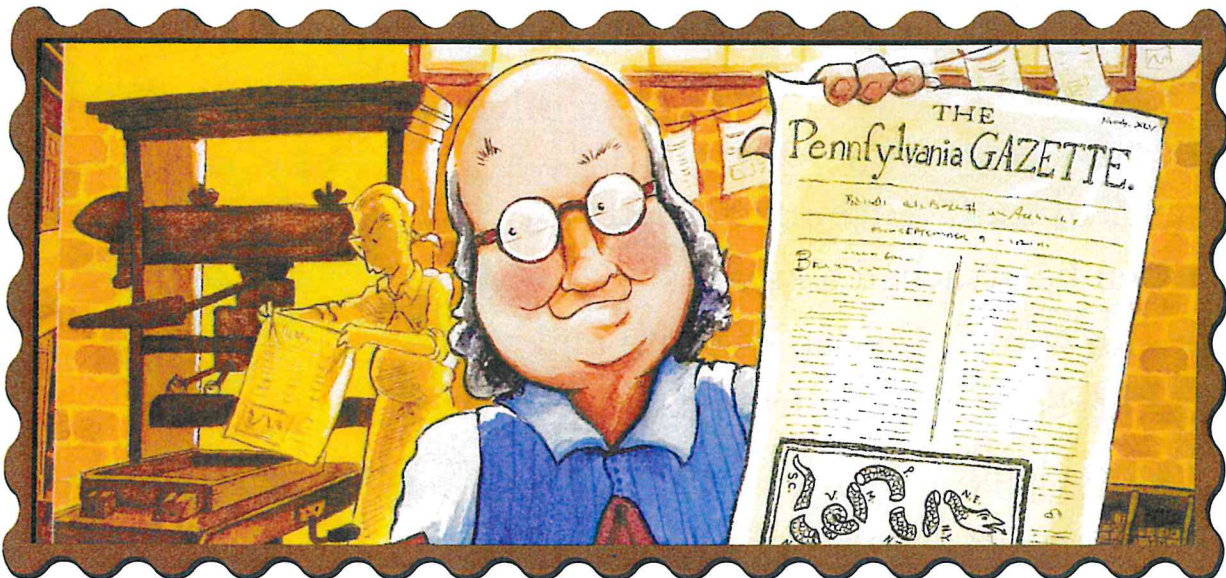
our newspapers are filled with illustrations.



# Ben...

was the first to print a political cartoon in America.

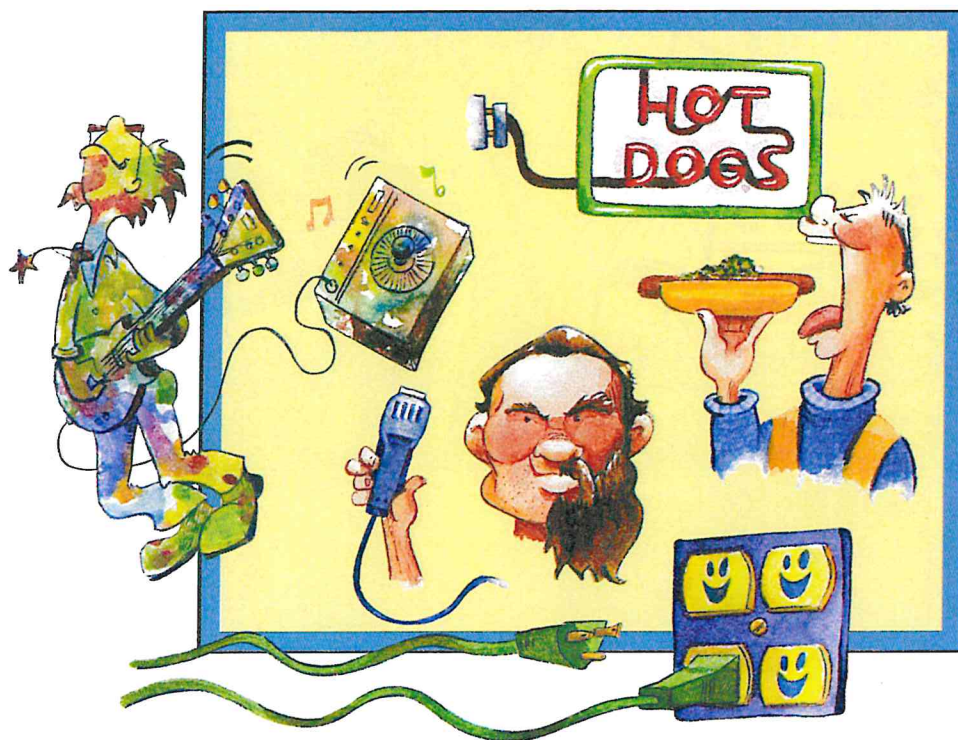
The cartoon encouraged the American colonies to join together or die like the disconnected snake.





# Now...

our world relies on electricity. In the eighteenth century, many people believed that lightning was an act of anger and punishment from God.



# Ben...

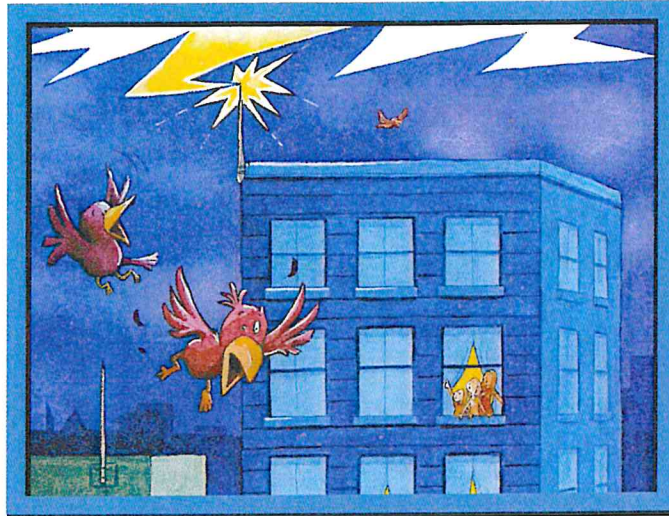
was one of the scientists who discovered the true nature of electricity and how to use it. He learned that lightning is electricity when he attached a small metal wire to the top of a kite and gathered electricity from a storm cloud.





# Now...

many buildings and homes use lightning rods to protect against lightning strikes.



# Ben...

invented the lightning rod and was the first to use it. The pointed iron rod acts like a magnet and grabs an approaching lightning bolt from the sky before it can strike the rooftop. The electricity then travels safely down a long wire into the ground. It prevents fires and keeps dangerous **amounts** of electricity away from the house.



## ANALYZE THE TEXT

**Using Context** What is a lightning rod? How do the words and illustrations help you understand its purpose?



# NOW...

this gadget goes by many names, such as the Grabber. Everyone has seen one—it's the long stick that helps grab items from out-of-reach places.





# Ben+++

invented the original device and called it the Long Arm because it worked like a very long arm.

## ANALYZE THE TEXT

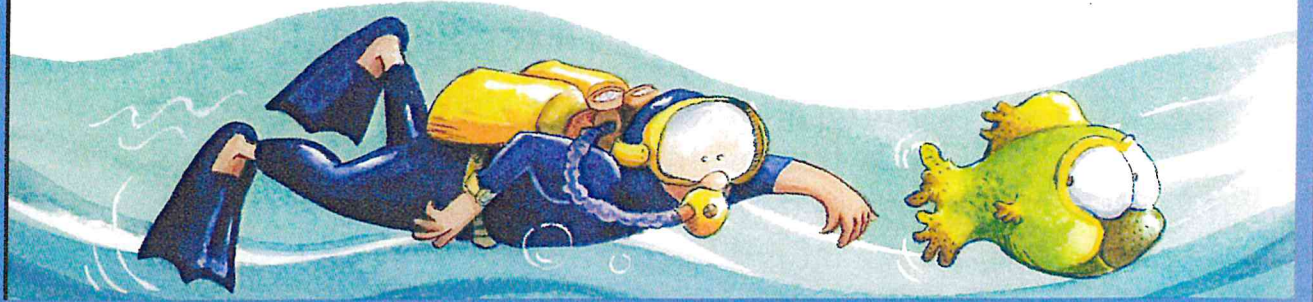
**Compare and Contrast** What about this invention is the same today as it was when Ben invented it? What is different about it?





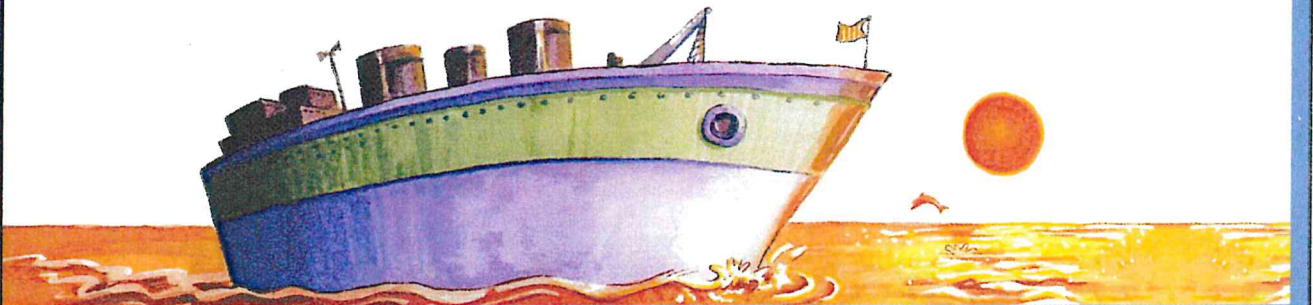
# Now...

swimmers and divers use flippers to move faster through the water.



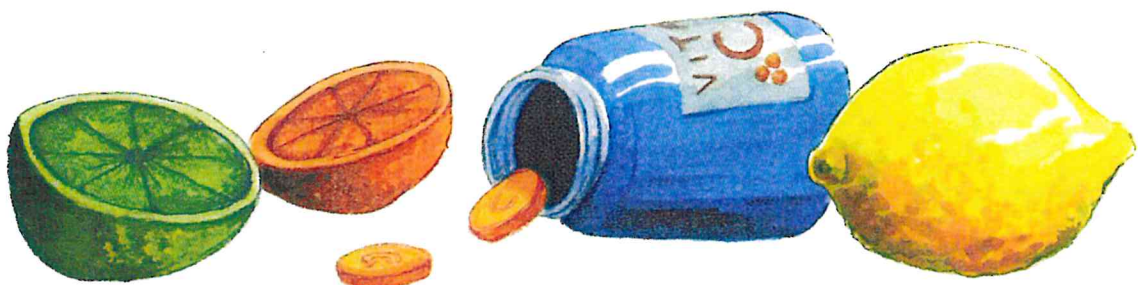
# Now...

ships travel across the Gulf Stream to take advantage of the faster current.



# Now...

we understand and accept the benefits of vitamin C.





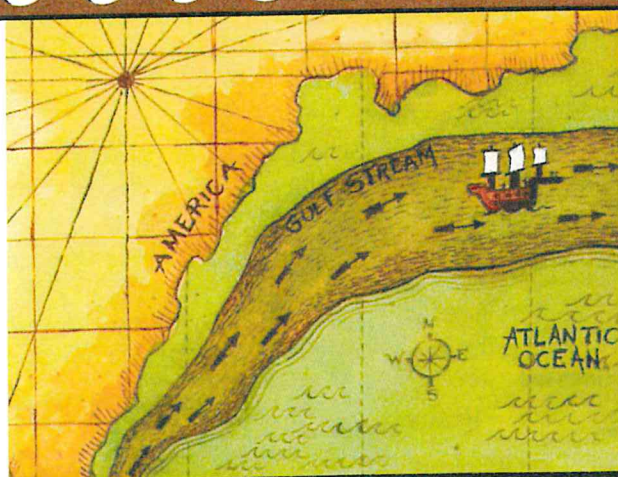
## Ben+++

invented things even when he was a boy. He was an avid swimmer and built wooden flippers for both his hands and feet.



## Ben+++

measured, charted, and publicized the Gulf Stream during his eight voyages across the Atlantic Ocean.



## Ben+++

was an early promoter of eating citrus fruits to help prevent a disease called scurvy.





Now...

for a musical interlude.

