

The Inventions of Benjamin Franklin

A Mercer Museum Scavenger Hunt

Benjamin Franklin was one of the most brilliant, creative and productive Americans of the 1700s. You can find a number of objects relating to the inventions of Franklin in the museum collection.

2nd Floor in Central Court

1. With a heavy tool like this, Franklin's arm surely got tired.

This machine helped create something so people could receive information from all over the American colonies. He used letters of the alphabet and a fluid of black.

What could be this tool which produced a product that kept us interested from front to back?

2. Franklin first felt the need to have a company formed to help put out fires.

It was important for these men to have enough water, because dealing with fire is not fun and games.

What object in our collection did the volunteers use to pump water to put out fires?

3. Franklin was a big fan of cleanliness and maintaining good health.

Using this object in Franklin's time was not common, but he used it quite a lot. Just fill it up with water and receive some relaxation.

4. Franklin worked to fix this service, so things were delivered fast and on time.

Letters, papers and news arrived from all around.

During Franklin's day, this service was located in a store.

Where did people pick up these items sent from different towns?

4th Floor

5. Franklin definitely needed help with his vision.

No doctor could improve his focus, both far away and near.

But Franklin was tired of carrying an extra pair of glasses, so he created this object, which now helps millions see everywhere.

5th Floor

6. Franklin said that to be "healthy, wealthy and wise" one should be "early to bed and early to rise".

One of these might help you know when it was bed time, and when it was time to "rise."

6th Floor

7. This particular object was inspired when Franklin kept burning his knees.

He designed it and wrote detailed instructions so that every ironworker could make one for whoever wished to keep warm.

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Answer Key

1. Printing Press
2. Fire Engine
3. Bathtub
4. General Store
5. Bifocal Glasses
6. Clock
7. Benjamin Franklin Stove