

Benjamin Franklin and *Poor Richard's Almanack*

List of sayings from *Poor Richard's Almanack*. These are sometimes called proverbs and aphorisms.

1. An empty bag cannot stand upright.
2. Be always ashamed to catch thyself idle.
3. Cheese and salty meat should be sparingly eaten.
4. The Doors of wisdom are never shut.
5. Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.
6. Full of courtesy, full of craft.
7. God helps them that help themselves.
8. Hunger never saw bad bread.
9. If you'd have a servant that you like, serve yourself.
10. If Jack's in love, he's no judge of Jill's beauty.
11. Keep thy shop and thy shop will keep thee.
12. A Lie stands on one leg, the truth on two.
13. A Man without a wife is but half a man.
14. Nothing but money is sweeter than honey.
15. One today is worth two tomorrows.
16. Pay what you owe and you'll know what's your own.
17. A quarrelsome man has no good neighbors.
18. The Rotten apple spoils his companion.
19. Speak little, do much.
20. Three may keep a secret, if two of them are dead.
21. Up, sluggard, and waste not life; in the grave will be sleeping enough.
22. Visits should be short, like a winter's day.
23. Well done is better than well said.
24. A good example is the best sermon.
25. You may delay, but time will not.
26. There are lazy minds as well as lazy bodies

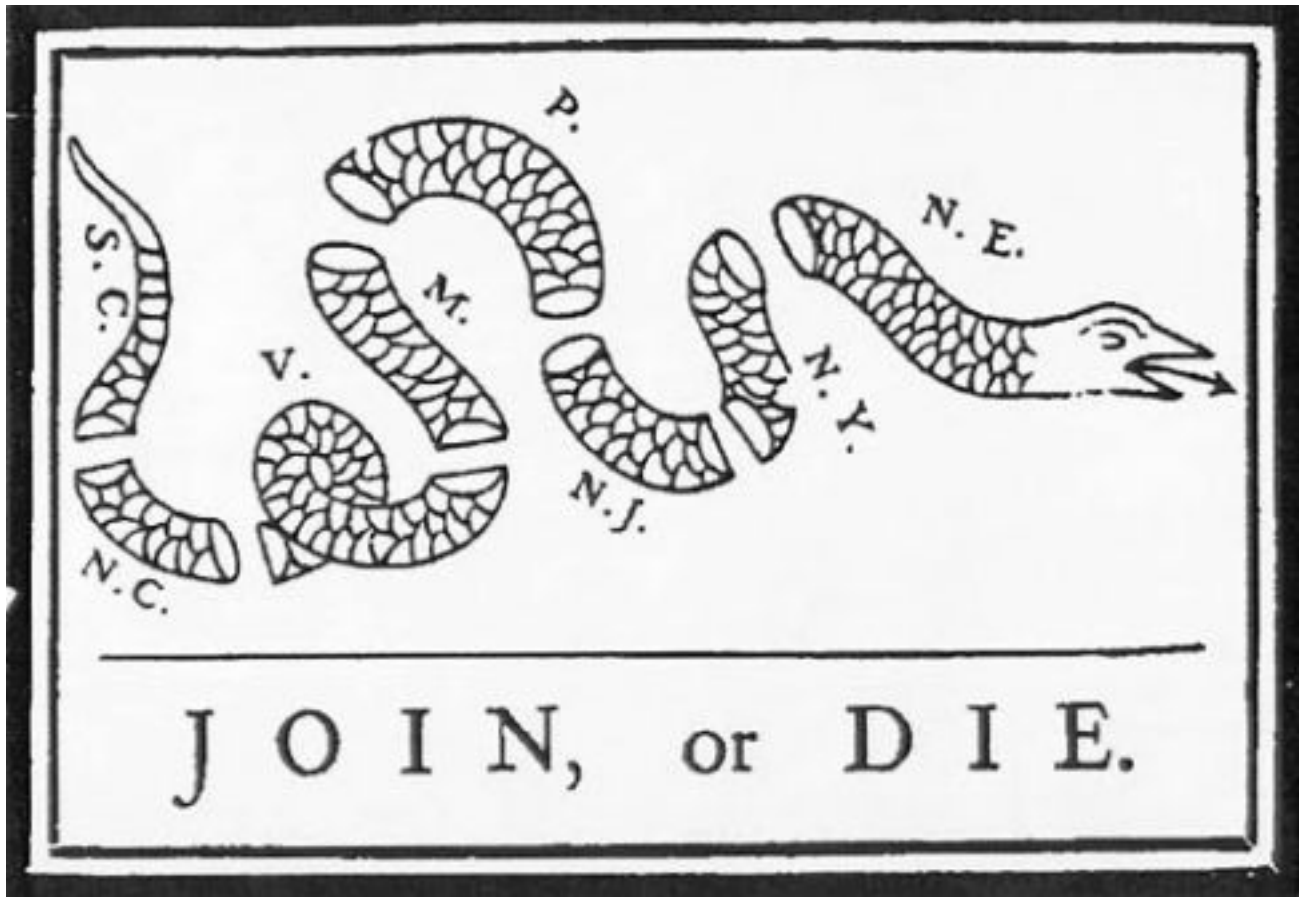
Benjamin Franklin and his inventions

Below is a list of descriptions of the inventions of Benjamin Franklin.

1. In 1784, Ben Franklin developed **bifocal glasses**. He was getting old and was having trouble seeing both up-close and at a distance. Getting tired of switching between two types of glasses, he devised a way to have both types of lenses fit into the frame. The distance lens was placed at the top and the up-close lens was placed at the bottom.
2. He noticed that many people burned wood in their fireplaces even though many houses were still made of wood. He also noticed that people used a lot of wood. He came up with an iron furnace stove that used less wood while producing more warmth. It was also a safer method of heating a building. This was the **Franklin stove**.
3. Another invention that came out of his personal observations was the **odometer**, a device that keeps track of how many miles a vehicle has gone. Franklin was postmaster of Philadelphia and was curious as to how many miles his postal carriage traveled on a typical day.
4. Again drawing on his personal experience, he invented a long wooden pole with a metal claw on one end. He used this device to reach books on high shelves in his house.
5. In 1752, Benjamin Franklin conducted his famous kite flying experiments and proved that lightning is electricity. During the 1700s lightning was a major cause of fires. Many buildings caught on fire when struck by lightning and kept burning because they were built mainly of wood. Benjamin Franklin wanted his experiment to be practical, so he developed the **lightning rod**. A tall rod is attached to the outside wall of the house. One end of the rod points up into the sky; the other end is connected to a cable, which stretches down the side of the house to the ground. The end of the cable is then buried at least ten feet underground. The rod attracts the lightning and sends the charge into the ground, which helps to decrease a number of fires.
6. An avid swimmer, Franklin was just 11 years old when he invented **swimming fins**—two oval pieces of wood that, when grasped in the hands, provided extra thrust through the water. (He also tried out fins for his feet, but they weren't as effective.)

Benjamin Franklin and politics

Below is the image of the “Join or Die” cartoon with its description.



The cartoon depicts the early American colonies as a snake divided into eight segments. Toward the head of the snake, “NE” represents New England, followed by “NY” (New York), “NJ” (New Jersey), “P” (Pennsylvania), “M” (Maryland), “V” (Virginia), “NC” (North Carolina) and “SC” (South Carolina). Even though there were four “New England” colonies, Franklin lumped them into one category to stress the need for colonial unity. At the time, the colonists fiercely debated expanding west of the Appalachian Mountains and fighting the French and their Indian allies.

The snake has powerful, superstitious connotations. During Franklin’s era, there was myth that a severed snake would come back to life if the pieces were put together before sunset. The cartoon, which appeared alongside Franklin’s editorial about the “disunited state” of the colonies, symbolically portrays an either/or fallacy: unite or be attacked by French and Indian allies. Fear, a common theme throughout American propaganda history, ignites natural human emotions and produces a “call to action.” People are generally more likely to respond when they feel their lives are in danger. In 1754, the newspaper served as the primary medium to disseminate news to the public.

