

Dear students,

My name is Stephen Wilson and I run activities for schools when they visit the House, and I visit schools too. Benjamin Franklin House is a small house on a street in the centre of London called Craven Street. It is very close to Buckingham Palace, where the Queen lives, and the Houses of Parliament, where our Government is. Ben Franklin lived in this House for 16 years between 1757 and 1775. I'm delighted that you are trying to learn more about him, and I will do my best to answer your questions.

Benjamin Franklin

Zach- I don,t now inething abaout him was he the therd presudint ?how ald is he ? did he waer shoows. did he waer socs. (I don't know anything about him. Was he the third president? How old is he? Did he wear shoes? Did he wear socks?)

Hi Zach. Ben Franklin was never President, though we have a lot of visitors to the House who think he was! One reason might be that he was too old by the time the US was ready to choose its first President in 1789 - he was 83 years old by then! Instead of course the chose General Washington. Franklin was 84 years old when he died in 1790 - a good age wouldn't you say? I believe Franklin did indeed wear shoes, as most people did who could afford them in those days. People wore socks that were more like long stockings - they came up over the knee.

Henry- don t now.what hapind to the key?did he get mared? waer did he live? huw was his wife?is he cool (Don't know what happened to the key. Did he get married? Where did he live? Who was his wife? Is he cool?)

Hi Henry. What an interesting question! I truly have no idea what happened to the key. It was probably a very ordinary key. The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia has an excellent exhibit on Franklin's famous kite and key experiment, and I would recommend you go see it if you can. Franklin did get married, to a lady called Deborah. Deborah was frightened of the sea and so she stayed in Philadelphia when Franklin moved to London in 1757. This meant that Deborah and Ben lived apart for almost 16 years! She was very supportive of him and wrote to him regularly. And yes, we think Franklin was very cool! He liked children very much and liked to spoil them with treats and gifts.

Tony-i don t on. (I don't know him.)
was he the thus pusdt ? was he in the ome ? (Was he the first president? Was he in the army?)

Hi Tony. Franklin was one of the Founding Fathers, along with George Washington, Thomas