

Ideas and Inventions

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A Sticky Idea

by ReadWorks



Have you ever put a sticky bandage on a cut? The best-known sticky bandages are called Band-Aids. They were invented in 1920.

A man named Earle Dickson invented Band-Aids. Earle wanted to help his wife. She often cut her fingers when she cooked.

At the time, people had to make their own bandages. They cut pieces of gauze and tape. Those bandages were hard to use. Earle's idea was easy to use. Thanks, Earle!

Ticktock, Meet This Clock

by ReadWorks



Some people find it hard to wake up in the morning. That is a problem. A woman had an idea. She made a special wake-up clock. Here is how it works. The clock beeps to wake you. You still want to sleep. You try to turn it off. The clock does not go off. It keeps beeping. It uses its wheels to move. It moves around your room. You must get up to find the clock. That wakes you up. Good morning!

The Lightning Rod

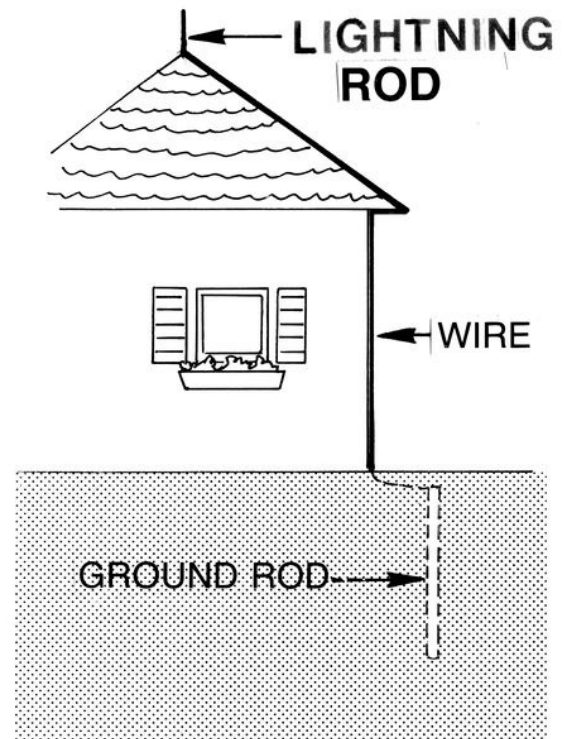
by Rachelle Kreisman

Ben Franklin lived long ago. He solved problems. One big problem was that lightning hit houses. Sometimes lightning set houses on fire. Why? Lightning is electricity. It is very hot.

Ben wanted to protect houses. He knew lightning hits tall objects. He invented a metal rod to go on top of buildings. The rod had a wire in it. The wire went to the ground.

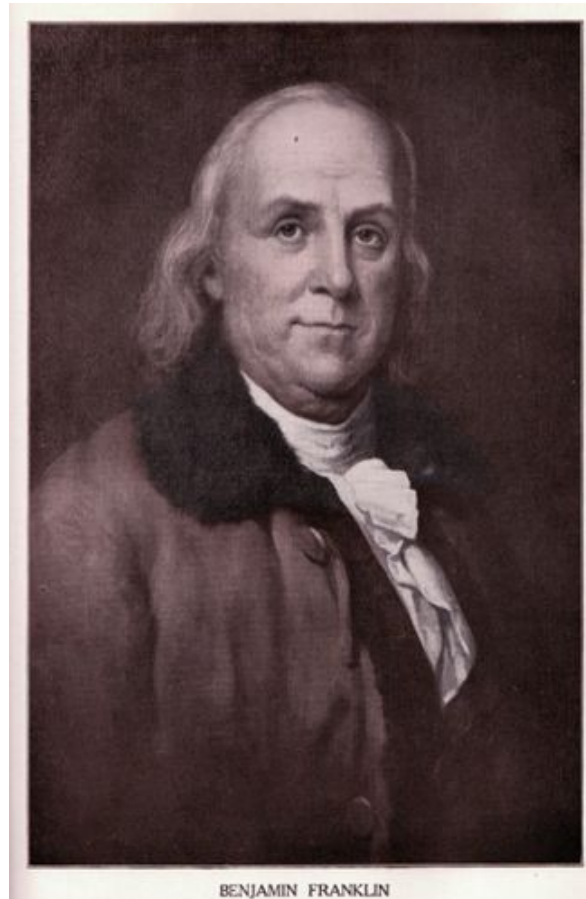
Ben hoped lightning would hit the rod instead of the house. The electricity would travel down the wire to the ground.

His idea worked. Today, many houses are protected from lightning thanks to Ben's invention.



Ben Franklin's Idea

by ReadWorks



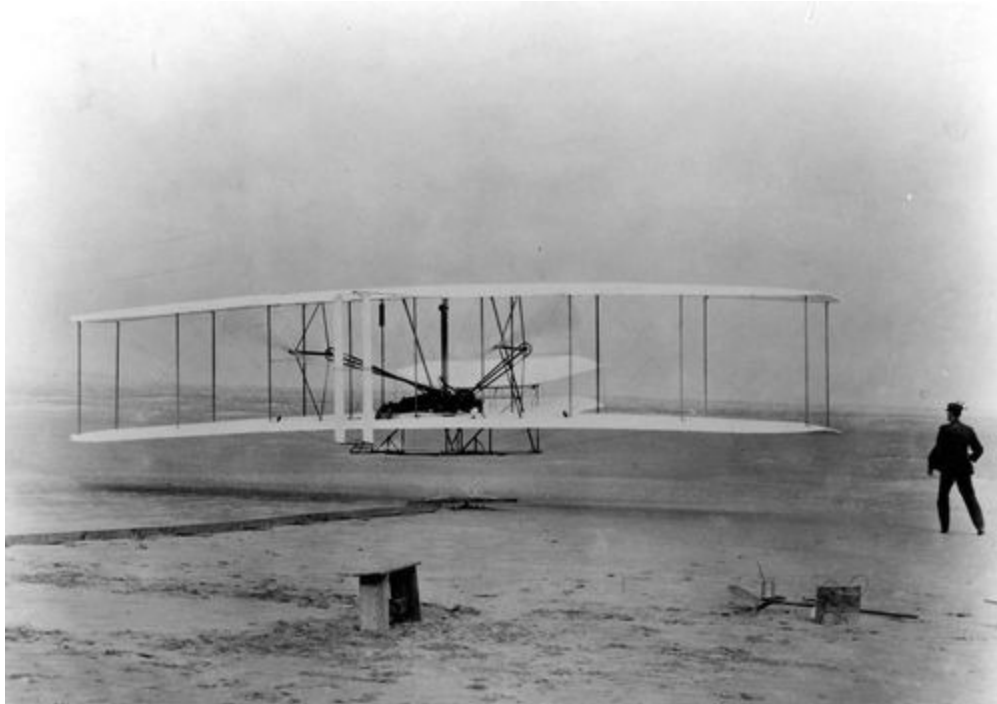
Ben Franklin invented things. He liked to read too. He went to the library a lot.

Franklin had a problem. Some books were on high shelves. They were hard to reach.

Franklin had an idea. He made a tool. He called it the long arm. It was a pole with a claw at one end. The claw was like a hand. Franklin pulled a cord to open and close the claw. Now he could reach the high books!

The Flying Toy

by Kate Paixão



Wilbur and Orville Wright were brothers. They lived a long time ago. One day, their father brought home a helicopter toy.

The helicopter toy was made with rubber bands, cork, and other things. When Wilbur and Orville wound the toy up, it flew in the air. However, the toy was not very strong. Soon, it broke.

Wilbur and Orville studied their broken toy. Then the boys built a new one. It worked! Years later, the brothers built another flying machine. It was big enough for people to ride in. Their machine was one of the first airplanes.