

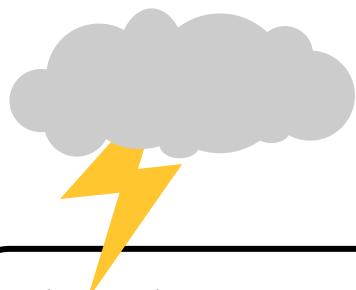
Franklin and Electricity

Activity Two: Franklin's Kite and Key experiment



BENJAMIN
FRANKLIN
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36 Craven Street, London



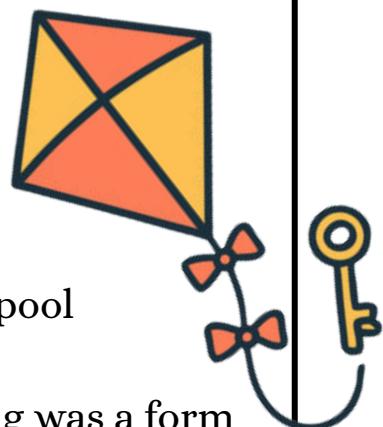
Read the story below.

In the 18th century, many people believed that lightning was a very hot liquid. Benjamin Franklin however, had a theory that lightning was a form of electricity. He had done many electrical experiments and knew about how it worked. He identified how some materials conduct electricity and others do not.

His theory came from his experiments. He noticed lightning and electricity had many similarities.

He noticed that lightning and electricity:

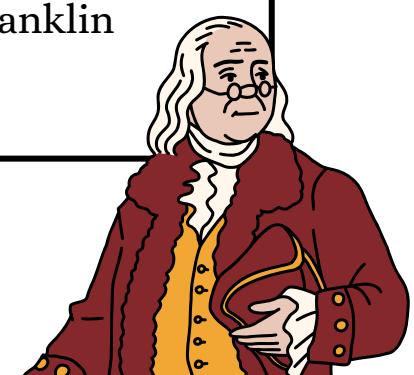
- I. Look the same – the colour and shape of the sparks
- II. Sound the same – crack, pop, zap!
- III. Smell the same – similar to the smell of a swimming pool



In 1752, Franklin wanted to prove his theory that lightning was a form of electricity. He believed that one way to prove something was electric was to feel a small shock from it.

Franklin flew a kite into a thunderstorm and tied a metal key at the bottom of the string. During the storm Franklin would touch the key to see if his experiment produced an electric shock.

When Franklin touched the key, he felt a small shock. This proved that lightning was electrical in nature! The key shocked Franklin because it was made of metal. Metal is a **conductor**.



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Create a comic strip of Franklin's experiment.

