

A painting of Benjamin Franklin holding a key aloft to attract lightning. He is wearing a dark coat and a red cloak. In the background, there are cherubs and a stormy sky with lightning. The title 'The True Nature of Lightning' is written in a white box with a red border.

# The True Nature of Lightning



**BENJAMIN  
FRANKLIN  
HOUSE**

*36 Craven Street, London*

Presented by:  
Henry Wilkinson  
(Education Manager)



# The True Nature of Lightning



**BENJAMIN  
FRANKLIN  
HOUSE**

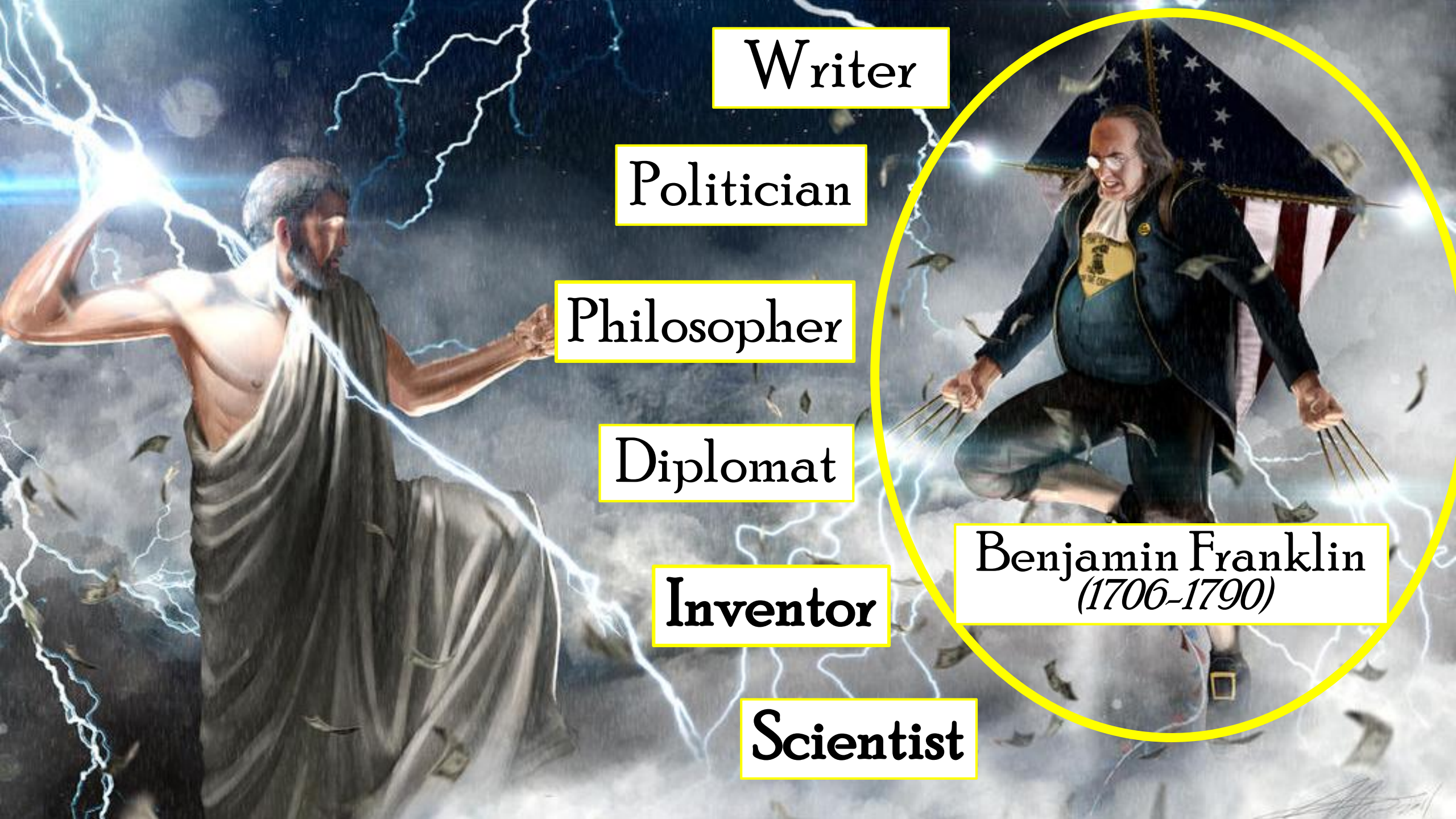
*36 Craven Street, London*

**Artwork: SharpWriter**

Presented by:  
**Henry Wilkinson**  
(Education Manager)



Benjamin Franklin  
(1706-1790)



Writer

Politician

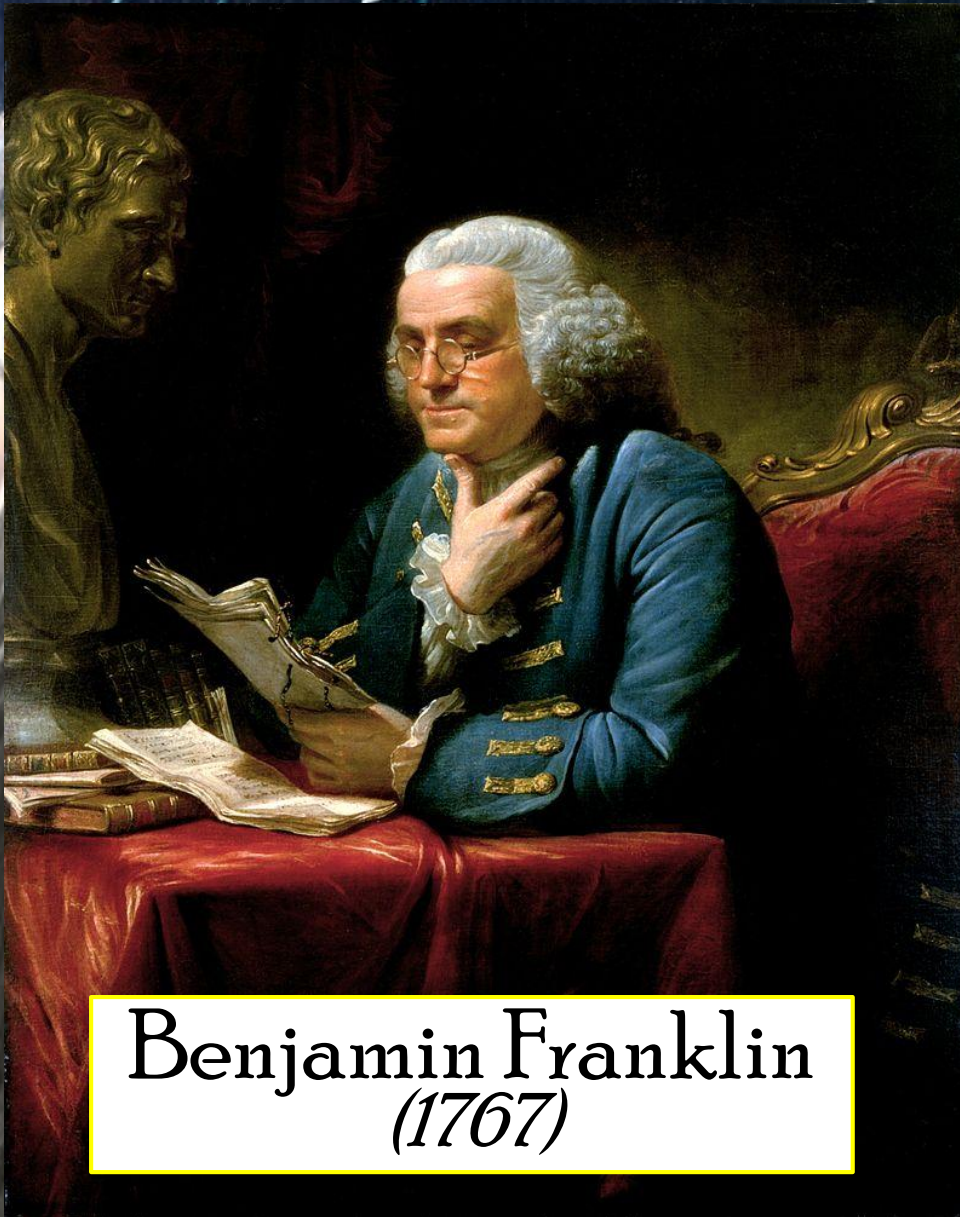
Philosopher

Diplomat

Inventor

Scientist

Benjamin Franklin  
(1706-1790)



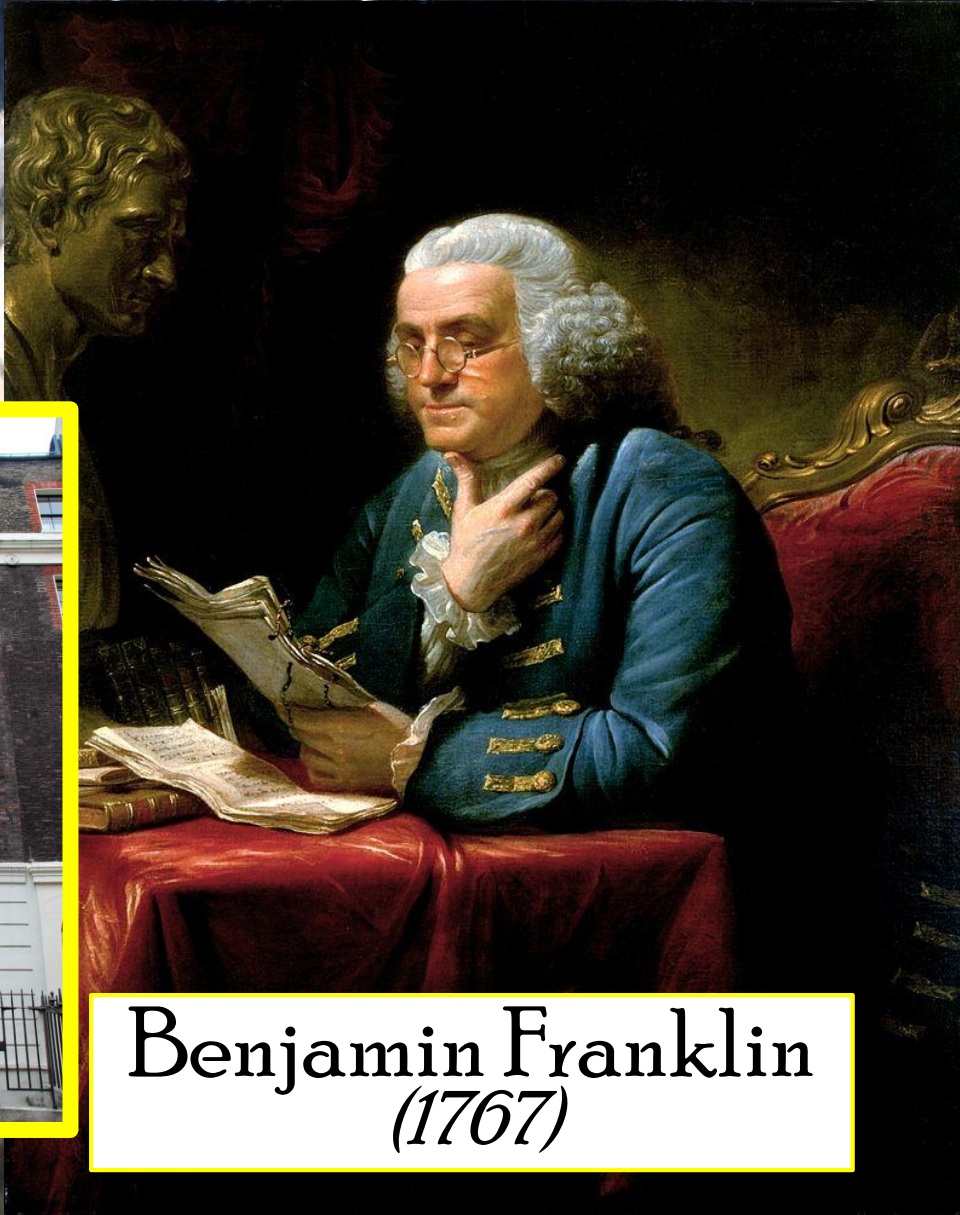
Benjamin Franklin  
(1767)



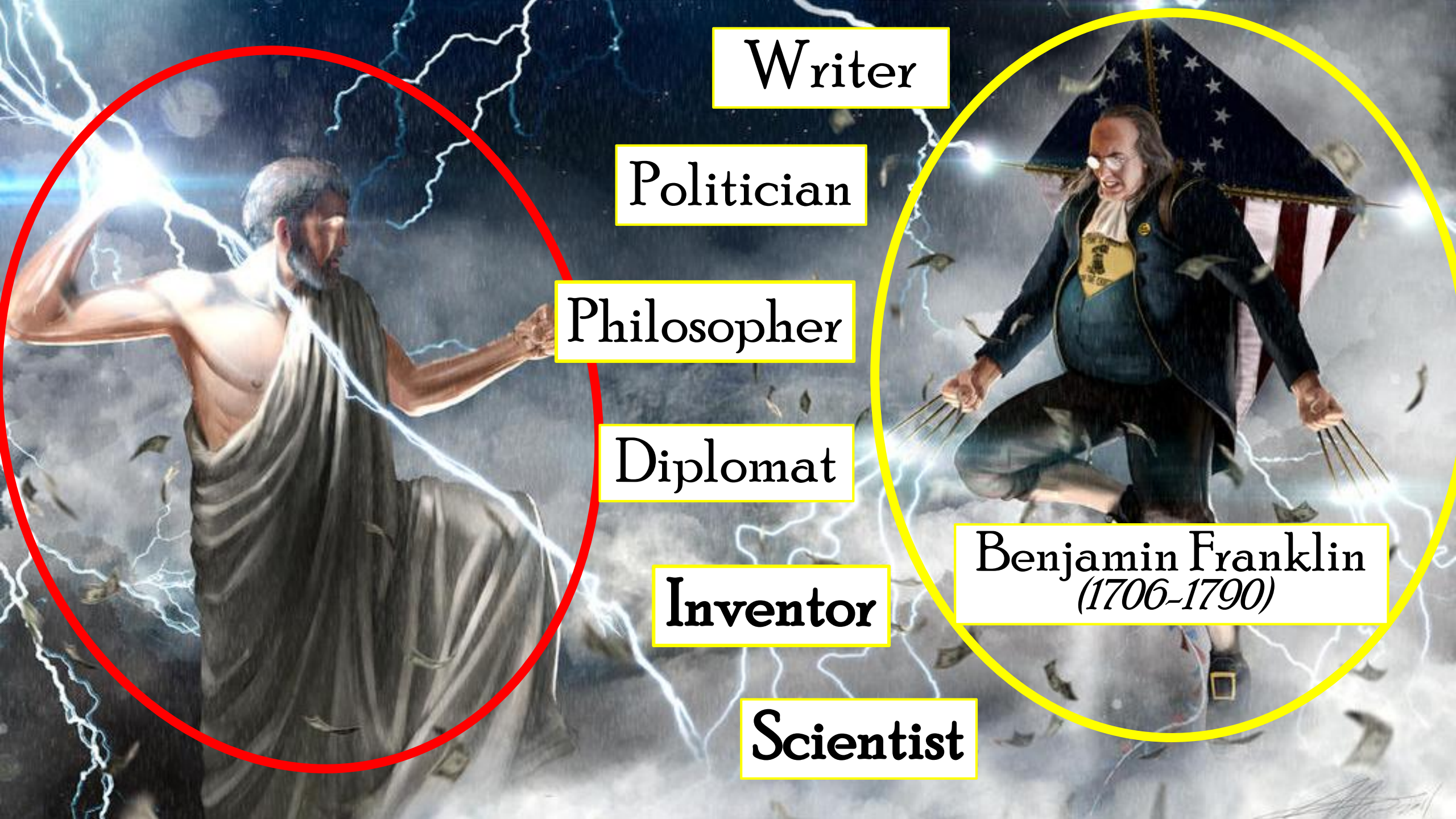
Benjamin Franklin  
(1706-1790)



Benjamin Franklin  
(1767)



Benjamin Franklin  
(1706-1790)



Writer

Politician

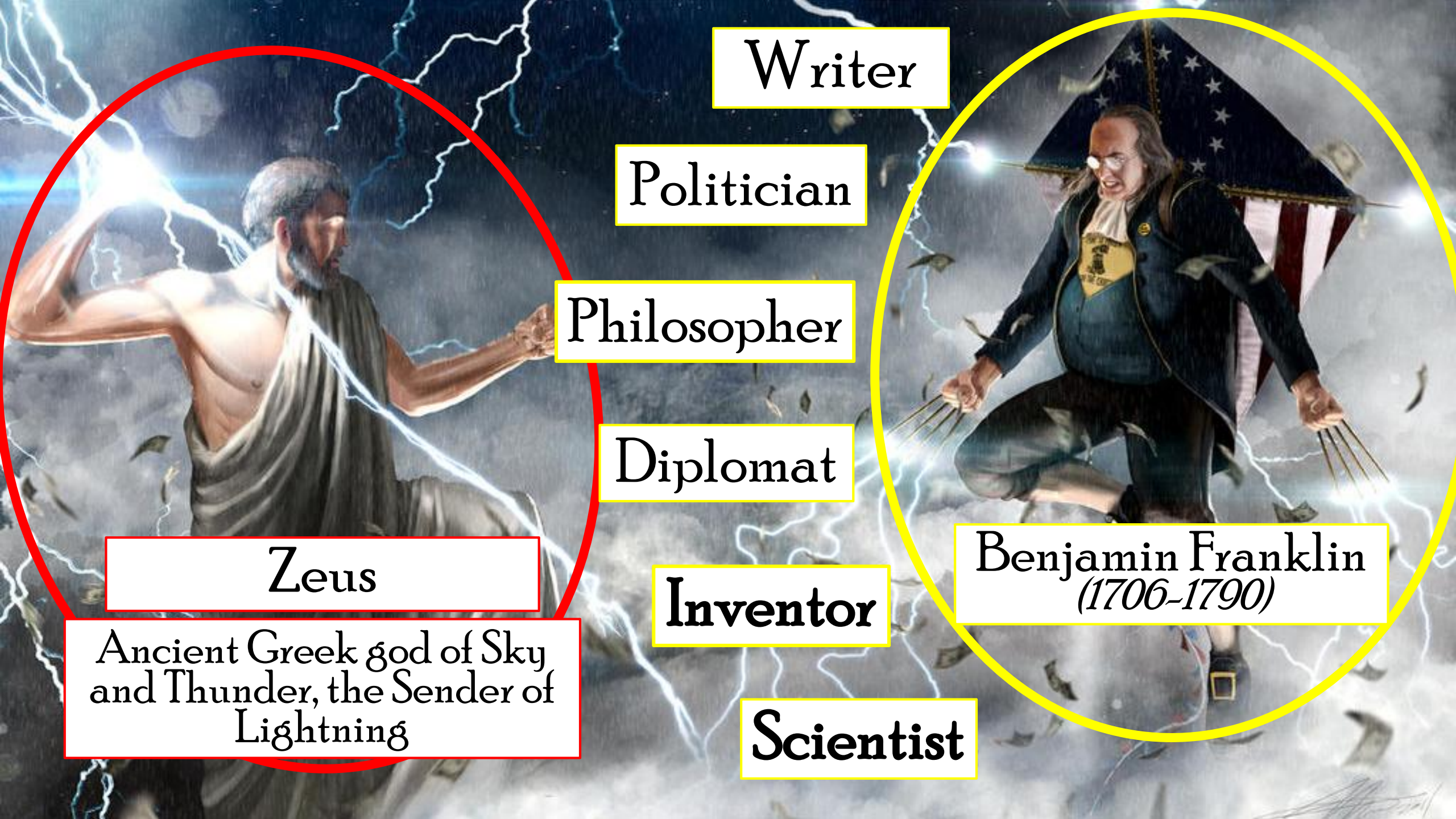
Philosopher

Diplomat

Inventor

Scientist

Benjamin Franklin  
(1706-1790)



Writer

Politician

Philosopher

Diplomat

Inventor

Scientist

Zeus

Ancient Greek god of Sky  
and Thunder, the Sender of  
Lightning

Benjamin Franklin  
(1706-1790)

# WHY?

Writer

Inventor

Scientist

Benjamin Franklin  
(1706-1790)

Ancient and The Lightning



# The True Nature of Lightning

**Inventor**

**Scientist**

**Benjamin Franklin**  
*(1706-1790)*



# The True Nature of Lightning

Question:  
What is lightning made of?



**Question:**  
**What is lightning made of?**

**Franklin's Theory:**  
**Lightning and electricity are the**  
**same thing.**

A dramatic illustration depicting Benjamin Franklin on the right, dressed in 18th-century attire with a blue coat and a yellow sash, holding a key and standing on a lightning rod. He is surrounded by falling money and lightning bolts. On the left, a muscular, shirtless man in a grey robe holds a lightning bolt in his hand. The background is a dark, stormy sky with multiple lightning bolts and falling money.

**Myth No.1:  
Franklin discovered electricity.**

Myth:  
Franklin discovered electricity.

**FALSE**





**The Greeks discovered electricity about 3000 years ago.  
Its name came from the word "elektron", which means  
amber.**



**Question:**  
**What is lightning made of?**

**Ancient Greeks**

**1706-1790**



EXPERIMENTS  
AND  
OBSERVATIONS  
ON  
ELECTRICITY,

MADE AT  
*Philadelphia in America,*  
BY  
Mr. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN,  
AND  
Communicated in several Letters to Mr. P. COLLINSON,  
of London, F. R. S.

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L O N D O N :  
Printed and fold by E. CAVE, at St. John's Gate. 1751.  
(Price 2s. 6d.)



A classical painting of Zeus, the Greek god of the sky and thunder, depicted as a bearded man in a grey robe, holding a large, glowing lightning bolt in his right hand. The background is a dark, stormy sky with other lightning bolts visible.

## Lightning

A painting of Benjamin Franklin, dressed in 18th-century attire, holding a key to a lightning rod. He is standing in a storm, with lightning bolts striking the rod and the ground around him. An American flag is visible in the background.

## Electricity

### OBSERVATIONS

- Created light
- Made loud crashes when they exploded
- Attracted to metal
- Had a particular smell
- Static



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**Ben Franklin Acquires Electricity (1752)**

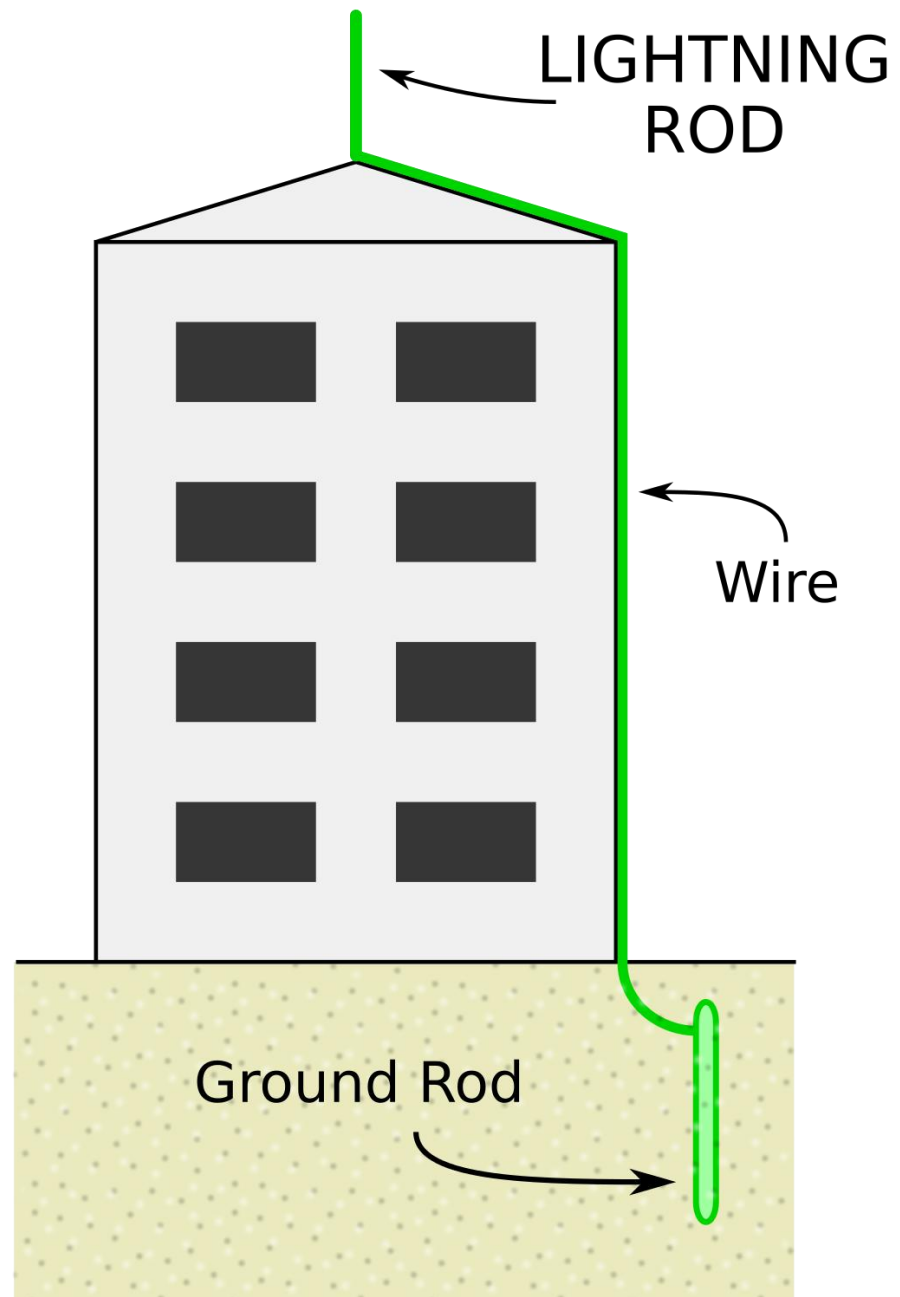




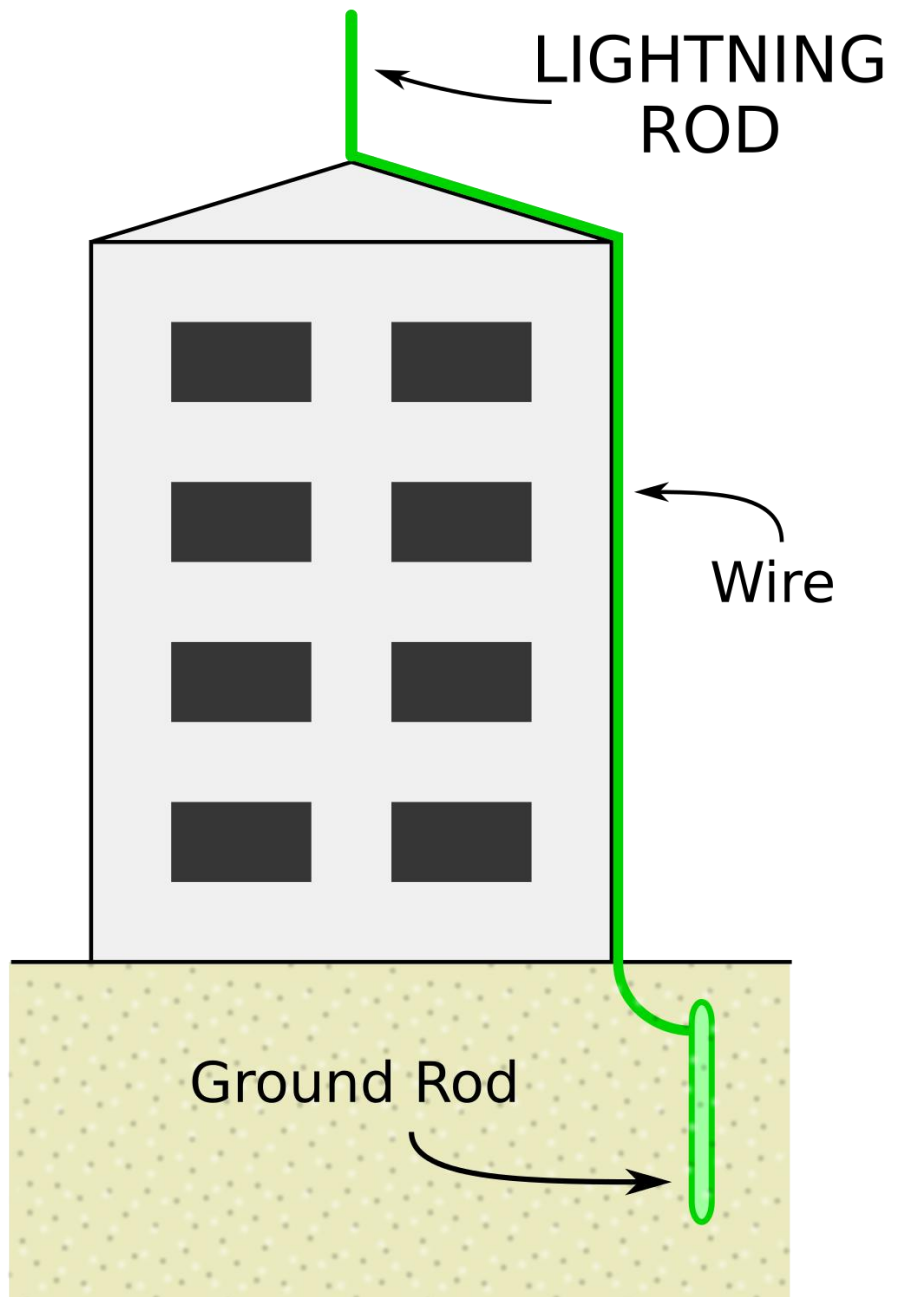


WHY?
















Wolverine claws?





Wolverine claws = Lightning Rods

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