

Benjamin Franklin Lightning Rod (1749)

The lightning rod by Benjamin Franklin was developed in 1749 and played a major role at the time. The lightning rod was significant because it proved that lightning was a form of electricity. Franklin decided that he wanted to use a metal rod to try and attract electricity from the lightning in the skies, in order to keep lightning from killing people or destroying buildings. Franklin attached a key to a kite in order to discover it would work. The main design of the rod was an eight to ten foot long sharp rod to be placed on top of tall buildings in order to mitigate the damaging effects of lightning.

Benjamin Franklin’s invention of the lightning rod, which was developed in 1749, would quite literally spark the start of a new industrial age. The conduction of electricity lead to our modern society as it is today, and without his contribution to science, all of the modern technology we possess today might not of been. Cell phones, computers, and many other common appliances that we have access to would not have existed in the first place without Franklin’s sudden discovery of how to harness electricity. His influence in science and technology heavily influenced the way our lives turned out today, showing how significant he was to our modern today.

During the 1750’s, people didn’t have any electricity. They were using candles, which were a good source of light for a while. As long as you didn’t make a breeze or have the wind blowing nearby the candle, you’d still have your light source. But sometimes, having the candle could be bad. If you were trying to keep the flame from blowing out and had your hand directly underneath it, you could get badly burned by the candle wax, and that’s not good. And, sometimes, when it was really windy and you were using your candle, it could accidentally tip over and cause a massive fire. And, considering that there weren’t any firefighters during this time, it’d be game over for you.

In the year 1752 Benjamin Franklin conducted his first electricity experiment shocking the world. He played an essential role in the electronics we have access to today, because without his scientific discoveries electricity would be nothing but a fantasy. Stuck in a world without computers, cell phones, or even television. But Franklin decided to do the unthinkable, using his findings to push the boundaries, asking next “what could be the practical purpose”. He continued to study and experiment, gathering data and information on the topic at hand. Benjamin Franklin offered his intelligence to the world, opening the gates to a flood of new innovations revolving around his advances in the subject of electricity.