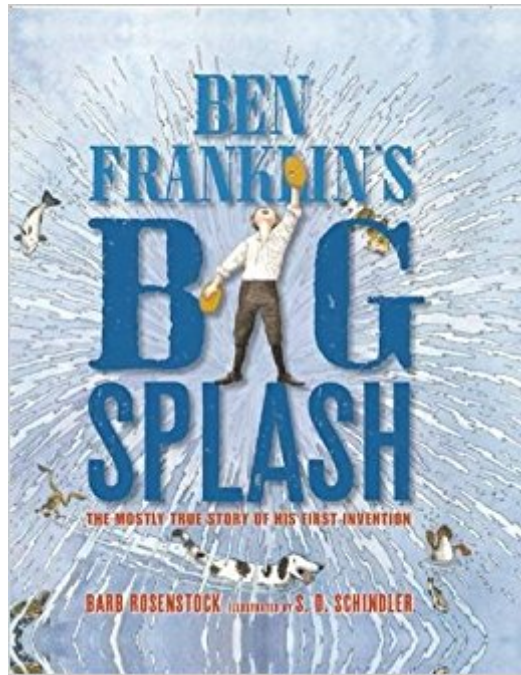




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Ben Franklin's Big Splash: The Mostly True Story Of His First Invention



Synopsis

A National Science Teachers Association, Best STEM Book Every inventor has to start somewhere, and one of the greatest innovators in our history was no exception. Ben Franklin developed his first invention while doing what he loved best: swimming! Ben's Big Splash is the story of Franklin's first invention, his journey through the scientific method, and the surprising successes that result when you're willing to make mistakes. Barb Rosenstock's rhythmic, whimsical style is the perfect complement to S. D. Schindler's pen and ink and watercolor illustrations. Together they recreate history in an engaging and unique way. Both author and illustrator worked closely with Franklin experts, and the book includes Franklin quotes, an extensive author's note, timeline, and bibliography.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1070L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Calkins Creek (September 1, 2014)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 9 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #101,529 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > United States #82 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial #1704 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works

Age Range: 8 and up

Grade Level: 3 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 3-7 • Did you know that it was once believed that swimming would make you sick? How about that very few sailors in colonial times knew how to swim? Before the world knew famous inventor Benjamin Franklin, stinky Ben took to the sea and splashed his way through his first invention, the swim fins. Listeners will learn how young Ben analyzed the swimming patterns of a variety of aquatic creatures, including otters, turtles, and fish, to craft his unique invention. Susie

Berneis's narration is strong, but listeners may find it difficult to visualize the actions with text alone. A variety of sound effects aid the narration, making it an enjoyable listening experience. VERDICT A worthwhile purchase if paired with the print edition. —Amanda Schiavulli, Finger Lakes Library System, NY --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

* ". . . The alliterative, sibilant text is a rollicking read to share aloud with young students . . . The watercolor and ink artwork conveys joy and motion, with young Ben splashing into the water, gleefully trying out his fins. An extensive bibliography, source notes for quotations, and a time line of Franklin's life add to the veracity and strength of this story. This is a fun introduction to one of the nation's founding fathers and a solid addition to collections needing a different perspective on this American icon." --School Library Journal, starred review* "Is another picture book about Ben Franklin really needed? The answer is yes, as unlike many of its predecessors, this one takes a fresh approach — by focusing on a single childhood fascination--swimming. . . Emphatic, alliterative verbs accentuate both his enthusiasm and his methodical nature. . . The finely detailed ink-and-watercolor illustrations, varying type sizes and colors, and clever page design effectively and delightfully depict this significant American scientist. . . As inventive as Ben himself, this presentation is awash with delight and definitely makes a big splash." --Kirkus Reviews, starred review" . . . Here's a slightly fictionalized tale to celebrate one of Ben's less-heralded accomplishments: self-taught swimmer. . . The text's tone is light and optimistic. Select words and phrases appear in larger colorful type, which, together with Schindler's lively ink and watercolor paintings, gives the book a breezy feel. . . " --The Horn Book Magazine

Having heard of this event prior, I was ecstatic to see it in print. Barb Rosenstock did the story justice!!

This book looks at Ben Franklin in a fun, new way. Both my son and I enjoyed learning a few new things about one of our country's founding fathers.

Excellent product and price

Great read aloud in the primary and even intermediate grades or a book for partner reading and discussion of main ideas like "How does this book reveal Franklin's curiosity about the world?" and "How does Franklin's method for perfecting an invention relate to scientific processes we've studied

in class?"Also, Rosenstock's author's note reveals how she used a specific primary source--a letter Franklin wrote to a fellow scientist in 1773 and other information available about Franklin--to imagine this story. This could serve as a launch pad for students' interpretation of primary sources and writing of their own biographically-based fictional narratives about a historical figure. This research and writing experience would require students to synthesize ideas from multiple texts and then write around a main idea they want to convey to a reader about their figure.

I liked this story--I had never heard of this episode from Ben Franklin's life. The language play is fun, though I resisted the constant "s" alliteration. Finally I just gave in and went with it. I'm still not sure quite how I feel about it (even though I'm an alliteration fan when it comes to poetry), but I bet it's really fun to read aloud to kids. The CIP info was incomplete, so I'm not sure if this is categorized as literature or nonfiction--I assume literature. I appreciated the Author's Note explaining what was fact and what was imagined.

Loved this rollicking alliterative introduction to the indefatigable young Ben (and to the scientific method/engineering process)! I used it as a kick-off to my program on inventors and inventions for elementary students. Details here:

<http://carolsimonlevin.blogspot.com/2015/04/mothers-fathers-of-invention-if-at.html> BTW, did anyone else draw a text-to-text connection to "Froggy Gets Dressed" by Jonathon London in Ben's stripping down to go swimming?

I've read all of Barb Rosenstock's picture book biographies and I love them! I recently reread Ben Franklin's Big Splash and as always found myself laughing out loud.

This is a great read aloud book! This book tells the (mostly) true tale of Ben Franklin's first invention and the bumps he encounters along the way. It will inspire kids to never give up on something if they don't succeed!

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