Benjamin Franklin's Childhood

   Ben Franklin was born in 1706. His family lived in Boston, Massachusetts. His father was a chandler (someone who makes candles and soap). Ben was the youngest of sixteen brothers and sisters, as well as the youngest boy. Young Ben read many books, and learned a great deal from his reading.

   Although Ben Franklin would grow up to be a writer, a publisher, and a statesman, to name just a few of his accomplishments, he did not have a lot of formal education. He only went to school until he was ten, when he left school to go to work with his father. A few years after that, he became an apprentice (someone who is learning a trade from a skilled employer) to his brother James, who was a printer. Before he finished his apprenticeship, though, he ran away to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he went to work as a printer.

What were some of Ben Franklin's character traits?

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What does Ben Franklin's story tell you about what it takes to be successful in the world?

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