The Power of Lightning

One day, Ben Franklin received a package. In it was an electricity tube from a friend. He had never seen anything like it. He rubbed it on his clothes and hair. It created sparks and made his hair stand on end. Franklin was fascinated. He did experiments with the tube and wanted to know more about how electricity worked. He had an idea.

Ben Franklin believed that lightning was an electric current. He wanted to see whether lightning would pass through metal. How would he do it? He tied a metal key to the end of a kite that had a pointed wire at the top. Then during a thunderstorm, Franklin flew the kite. The wire at the top of the kite attracted electricity, and the charge traveled down the string to the key. When Franklin reached for the key, he saw a spark. He believed this proved that lightning was a large electric spark.

From this experiment, Ben Franklin invented iron rods that could be put on a house. The rods would attract lightning and run it down the side of a house into the ground, diverting it from directly hitting the house. They became known as lightning rods. He also invented lightning bells that started to jingle when lightning was in the air. More important, this discovery by Ben Franklin led to many more inventions by other inventors.

What is the subject of this passage? _____

What are the most important details? _____

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What is the main idea of this passage? _____

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Name _____