

Famous Inventors Thomas Edison

Thomas Edison, born in 1847, was a troublemaker in school. He got poor grades and didn't listen to the teacher. Instead, he would daydream. He would dream about interesting things he could make. He hated school so much that his mother began home-schooling him when he was 10 years old.

Edison was most interested in learning how things were put together and how they worked. He became a great student when he was able to study what interested him.

Thomas Edison went on to become a very famous inventor. He invented the light bulb, the electric motor, the microphone, a talking doll and the typewriter. Edison also helped to invent the movie camera. But, that wasn't all. Edison created over 1000 new things. His home in Florida is now a museum.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. How would you describe Thomas Edison?
 - a. Edison was very nice.
 - b. He enjoyed learning.
 - c. He enjoyed school.
 - d. All of the above.

2. This passage is an example of
 - a. a biography.
 - b. an autobiography.
 - c. a mystery.
 - d. historical fiction.

3. In this passage, **poor** means
 - a. having little money.
 - b. broken.
 - c. bad.
 - d. high.

4. _____ was not necessarily influenced by an Edison invention.
 - a. The computer
 - b. The flashlight
 - c. The cell phone
 - d. The car

5. Based on the passage, it is likely that Edison's home was turned into a museum
 - a. because Edison liked having people over to his home.
 - b. because people want to visit and learn more about his life and inventions.
 - c. before he died.
 - d. after he invented the light bulb.

6. What makes Edison one of the most famous inventors?

7. Based on the passage, why did Edison most likely become an inventor?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Edison learned about how things were put together and how they worked _____ he became a great inventor.

- a. but
- b. before
- c. after
- d. although

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

When he was 10 years old, Thomas Edison began home schooling because he hated school.

Who? Thomas Edison

What? _____

When? _____

Why? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** famous: well known by other people.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 640

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive – the writer explains, defines or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: This passage describes how Thomas Edison became a famous inventor, and some of the inventions he created.

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6. What makes Edison one of the most famous inventors?

Suggested answer: Edison made several things that affect our daily lives even now. The light bulb, the typewriter, and the movie camera have had a big impact on our country and the world.

7. Based on the passage, why did Edison most likely become an inventor?

Suggested answer: The passages states that Edison was interested in learning how things were put together and how they worked. He also daydreamed when he was younger about things he could make.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

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When he was 10 years old, Thomas Edison began home schooling because he hated school.

Who? Thomas Edison

What? **began home schooling**

When? **when he was 10 years old**

Why? **because he hated school**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** famous: well known by other people.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.