

Famous Inventors - Thomas Edison

by ReadWorks



Thomas Edison and a phonograph

Thomas Edison, born in 1847, had a lot of trouble in school. He got poor grades and didn't listen to the teacher. Instead, he would daydream. Perhaps he daydreamed about interesting things he could make. His mother decided that she would teach Thomas at home. He started reading as many books as he could to learn a lot about many different subjects.

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 motion picture camera and the phonograph. He also improved the light bulb, electric motor, and typewriter. He invented too many things to list! Edison created over 1,000 new things. His home and laboratory in New Jersey is now a museum.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Thomas Edison worked on all of the following EXCEPT

- A. the light bulb
- B. the cotton gin
- C. the motion picture camera
- D. the phonograph

2. Edison's mother taught him at home because

- A. he had done poorly at school.
- B. there was no school nearby.
- C. she knew he would be a great inventor.
- D. she was the teacher for the whole town.

3. Based on the passage, it can be concluded that

- A. Edison's teachers could tell he would be a great inventor.
- B. Edison's mother did not think he would do anything important.
- C. Edison's education had a great effect on his career.
- D. Edison received very little education as a child.

4. Read the following sentences: "He got poor grades and didn't listen to the teacher. Instead, he would daydream. Perhaps he daydreamed about interesting things he could make."

The word **daydream** means

- A. to fall asleep during the day
- B. to draw things in a book
- C. to imagine things inside your head
- D. to play games with friends

5. This passage is mostly about

- A. Edison's work on the electric light bulb.
- B. Edison's education and accomplishments.
- C. Edison's relationship with his mother.
- D. why Edison struggled in school.

6. Describe how Edison learned things after he stopped going to school.

7. Based on the passage, why would Edison's home and laboratory be turned into a museum?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer 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