

Name _____

Date _____



Thomas Edison & Grit

"A Great Innovator"

Imagine a world without recorded audio, a world without a movie theater, a world without light bulbs so that when the sun goes down, it's dark... well, mostly dark. Glad you don't live in that world? Here's one guy you should thank.

In 1847, in the dark of the night,
A baby was born by candlelight.
Little Thomas Edison,
Born in Ohio, but he grew up in Michigan.
He struggled in school, it didn't really suit him.
So, his mom decided to homeschool him.
He was a hard worker who loved to read,
And those traits helped Thomas to succeed.
He was fascinated by communication,
That's the movement of information.
He wanted to improve technologies,
"If there's a better way, find it," was his philosophy.
So, he made modifications,
He took a device and made some changes.
Like the telegraph, that was a device
That sent and received messages, that's nice.
Edison knew he could make it better
Since he was already a well-known inventor.
He experimented with the design,
So it could transmit four messages at a time.
Thomas Edison, a great innovator,
Found success by never fearing failure.

He said that genius is just 1% inspiration,
And the rest is hard work and perspiration.

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Edison held more than 1,000 patents,
Those are the rights to inventions and gadgets.
What were Edison's best creations?
The ones that he's well known for making?
He made a light bulb that was much improved,
It was practical and safe to use.
See, before the light bulb, electric lights
Needed too much power and were way too bright.
But Edison's light bulb used less power,
And it cheaply lit a room for 1,200 hours.
Another invention that was a fixture
Was a camera that could make motion pictures.
He also invented the phonograph,
The machine that records your voice and plays it back.
The world's first talking doll was his idea,
And that was way before Buzz Lightyear.
His inventions weren't always awesome,
Like concrete furniture, a pain in the bottom.
But Edison learned from his failed projects,
They showed him about what to try next.
He allowed his mistakes to teach him a lesson,
So his flops led to new inventions.
In 1931, the year he died,
People across the country dimmed their lights, for...

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