



# Thomas Edison

by Elaine Morris

## Overview

*This book tells children about Thomas Edison and his inventions.*

### Literacy Focus *Word Count: 145 words*

#### High Frequency Words

*night, over, people, still, things, use*

#### Content Words

*Thomas Edison, inventor, phonograph, lightbulb, movie camera, silent movies*

#### Reinforcing Decoding Skills

- **Hard and Soft c Sounds:** (*camera, since*)
- **Compound Words:** *lightbulb*
- **Word Endings:** *-ed (invented, changed)*

#### Print Conventions

- **Capitalization:** Proper nouns

#### Comprehension/ Thinking Skills

- **Making inferences**
- **Matching pictures and text**
- **Comparing and contrasting**

#### Text Features

- **Glossary**
- **Bold-faced type**

#### Writing/Speaking and Listening

- **Writing about inventors**
- **Telling about inventions**
- **Sharing information about inventors**

#### Observe/Assess

See Retellings on page 170.

### Social Studies Focus

#### Content and Thinking Skills

- **Identifying various devices that Thomas Edison invented**
- **Recognizing that many of the devices we use today developed from Thomas Edison's inventions**

#### Background Information

Including patents shared with other people, Thomas Edison held a world-record 1,093 patents. As a young man, Edison became a telegrapher but the job demanded hearing better than his own. He invented an improved telegraph and continued to invent. His phonograph and lightbulb brought him international fame as an inventor.

#### Correlation to National Standards Social Studies

- **Science, Technology and Society**

See Standards Chart on page 218.

## Literacy Focus

### Set the Scene

Discuss with children what an inventor is. Ask:

*What does an inventor do?*

### Read and Discuss

#### Cover and Title Page

Show children the cover and title page and read the title and the author's name. Have children look at the pictures. Discuss what they think the book is about.

#### Pages 2–12

After you read page 2 aloud, point out that *Thomas Edison* is capitalized because proper names always begin with capital letters. Discuss the photographs and notice the differences between the original invention and the version we now use. Explain that each bold-faced word is found in the Glossary on page 12. Point out that a glossary lists important words from the book in alphabetical order and tells what each word means.

### Respond

- Have children read aloud the first sentence on page 5. Ask what sound the letter *c* makes in the word *music* (/k/) and in the word *since* (/s/). Write these words on the board: *cat*, *cent*, *city*, *coat*, and *cup*. Help children pronounce the words and have them tell which has the hard *c* sound and which has the soft *c* sound.
- Explain that *-ed* is an ending that can make action words express what happened in the past. When *-ed* is added to words that end in *e*, the final *e* is dropped. Challenge children to find *-ed* words in the book. Write the words with and without *-ed*.

○	○	○
invent	invented	
call	called	
change	changed	

- Tell children that some words, called compound words, are made by putting two words together. Write *light*, *bulb*, *every*, and *where* on the board. Ask children to find words on page 6 (*lightbulb*) and page 10 (*everywhere*) that combine two of these words into one word.



#### Composing Sentences

##### Activity Master, page 116

Have children write a sentence about each invention named on Activity Master, page 116.



#### English Language

##### Learners

Write the words *invent* and *inventor* on the board. Show children that the ending *-or* or *-er* is added to an action word to make a word that means “someone who does something.” Show other examples, such as *sail/sailor*, *listen/listener*, and *teach/teacher*.

## Social Studies Focus

### Social Studies Concept

Thomas Edison invented many things that we still use today.

### Activities

#### Changing Inventions

If possible, show examples of records from old 78s to 45s, LPs, and CDs. If a record player is available, play the records. Talk about how the music players and the records have improved over time.

#### The Invention and the Inventor

Ask children to make a collage with pictures of lightbulbs, record players, and movie cameras around the name of Thomas Edison.

#### What Would You Invent?

Invite children to draw a picture of something they would like to invent. Have children dictate or write a caption that tells what their invention does.

#### Other Inventors

Ask children to find out about other inventors, such as Alexander Graham Bell and the Wright Brothers, and report their findings to the class.



#### Using Inventions

##### Activity Master, page 117

Have children answer the questions on Activity Master, page 117, using words from the Word Bank.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**T h o m a s E d i s o n**

Write a sentence about each invention made by Thomas Edison.

**lightbulb**

---

---

**movie camera**

---

---

**phonograph**

---

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**T h o m a s   E d i s o n**

Use the words in the Word Bank to answer each question.

**Word Bank**

**Thomas Edison**  
**movie camera**

**lightbulb**  
**inventor**

**phonograph**

**If you wanted to play music, what machine would you use?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Who invented the phonograph?** \_\_\_\_\_

**If you wanted to make a home video, what machine would you use?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**If you went into a dark room, what would you use for light?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**What do you call someone who invents something?**

\_\_\_\_\_