

Name _____

Thomas Edison: A Legacy of Innovation

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Thomas Edison's work played a pivotal role in advancing technology and improving people's lives. His inventions, such as the light bulb and phonograph, transformed the way we live, work, and entertain ourselves. For example, the light bulb made indoor lighting safer and more accessible, while the phonograph revolutionized the music industry. Even today, we continue to benefit from his legacy, with electric lighting and audio recording technology being integral parts of our daily lives.
2. Two of Thomas Edison's most significant inventions were the incandescent light bulb and the phonograph. The light bulb revolutionized indoor lighting, providing a safe and reliable source of light. The phonograph allowed sound to be recorded and played back, changing the entertainment industry. While the light bulb improved people's quality of life by enhancing safety and productivity, the phonograph transformed how we experience music and laid the foundation for modern audio recording.
3. Without Thomas Edison's inventions, our lives would be drastically different. In terms of lighting, we might still rely on gas lamps or other less efficient sources, which could impact safety and productivity. Without the phonograph, the music industry might not have developed as it did, affecting our access to recorded music. Additionally, advancements in communication and entertainment might have been delayed, affecting our ability to connect and be entertained.
4. Thomas Edison's quote, "Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration," means that success is mostly the result of hard work and perseverance rather than just having a brilliant idea. Edison himself exemplified this by tirelessly experimenting and refining his inventions. For instance, he tried thousands of materials for the light bulb filament before finding the right one. This quote emphasizes the importance of determination and effort in achieving one's goals.

