

Wonders

Unit 5, week 3

"Great Inventions"

This week's Essential Question: What inventions do you know about?

This week's vocabulary words:
complicated, curious, device, imagine,
improve, idea, unusual

Spelling Words

born

corn

core

more

roar

soar

Sight Words

began

better

guess

learn

right

sure

***comprehension skill:** explain the problem and solution in a story or nonfiction piece

***comprehension strategy:** good readers can ask themselves questions about the text as they read to help understand the information



Thomas Edison, Inventor

Chapter 1

Young Tom Edison asked lots of questions. When someone told him, "I don't know," Tom had one more question. He asked, "Why don't you know?" He did lots of experiments to find out. Tom watched a goose sit on some eggs. He saw the eggs hatch. He wanted to know what would happen if he sat on eggs. So, Tom made a nest. Then, he put goose and chicken eggs in the nest. Next, he sat on the eggs and found out. Splat!

Young Tom also knew that birds ate worms and birds could fly. What if people ate worms? Tom guessed that they would fly, too. So, he gave a girl a cup of chopped worms and water. The girl drank it and got sick. And she didn't fly. Tom Edison, the boy who asked all those questions and did those unusual experiments, became the man whose inventions changed the world.

Tom Edison was born in 1847 in Milan, Ohio. He was the seventh and youngest child of Sam and Nancy Edison. Sam had a lumber mill. Nancy had been a teacher. When Tom had trouble in school, his mother became his teacher at home.

Chapter 2

Young Tom did many of his experiments in the cellar of his home. He had lots of jars of chemicals. He wanted to keep people from messing with them. To fix the problem, he had an idea. He wrote "poison" on each jar. He thought that would keep others away. He

was right! There were often smoke, strange smells, and loud noises in the Edison home. It all came from the cellar and from young Tom's experiments.

Tom needed money to pay for chemicals and other things. As a result, he got a job when he was twelve. He sold newspapers and candies on trains. Then at fifteen, he began to write, print, and sell his own newspaper for travelers. He named it the *Grand Trunk Herald*. Tom wrote news of people he met on the train. He also wrote how he felt about work. "The more to do," he wrote in his newspaper, "the more done." Tom liked to keep busy. Tom kept very busy on the train. He even set up his own lab in the baggage car.

As Tom got older, he kept doing great things. There were no telephones at the time. Instead, messages were sent through telegraph wires. They were sent in a code of dots and dashes. Tom learned the code. He got a job sending and reading telegraph messages. He found new ways to use the telegraph. Those were some of his first inventions.

Chapter 3

When Tom grew up, he became an inventor. He invented all kinds of things that helped people. At that time, burning gas lights lit homes and streets. Sometimes smoke from the lights filled a room. Sometimes fire from the lights burned a home down.

Tom was sure he could make a better light. So, he did experiments with eclectic light. He had lots of ideas. His notes filled hundreds

of notebooks. After more than a year of work, Tom did it. He made a light that was safe to use. "The electric light is the light of the future," Tom said. "And it will be my light." Edison's lights were big news. People came from all over to see them. Once they saw the Edison lights, they wanted them in their homes. Tom's lights brightened the world. Tom Edison spent his whole life making great things. The things he made helped people everywhere.

FAST & FLUENT

SPELLING WORDS

- 1 I was born in Utah.
- 2 She likes corn on the cob.
- 3 Throw away the apple core.
- 4 Do you want more to eat?
- 5 The lion has a loud roar.
- 6 Watch the bird soar in the sky.
- 7 Her name is Daisy.
- 8 Plant your seeds in the dirt.
- 9 Let's learn to read.
- 10 I sure do like you!

born
corn
core
more
roar
soar
her
dirt
learn
sure

| | 1st try | 2nd try | 3rd try |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|
| Mon. | : | : | : |
| Tues. | : | : | : |
| Wed. | : | : | : |
| Thur. | : | : | : |



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