

## Thomas Edison | Lesson Plan

How did Thomas Edison use challenges as motivation to improve society with his inventions?

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Students will understand that Thomas Edison was a famous inventor who didn't let his physical setbacks stop him from creating inventions that changed the world. Students will understand the importance of striving to improve society with ingenuity and invention, like Thomas Edison.

### Learning Objectives:

- Describe the life events that led to Thomas Edison's becoming a successful inventor.
- Identify Thomas Edison's various inventions.
- Explain how Thomas Edison used his physical setbacks to motivate him to become a successful inventor.
- Explain how an inventor like Thomas Edison improves society with their work.

### Key Vocabulary:

- **Telegraph:** A communication device that transmits coded messages over long distances using electrical signals sent through wires.
- **Telegrapher:** A person who operates a telegraph.
- **Morse Code:** A system of communication that uses a series of dots and dashes to represent letters, numbers, and punctuation, allowing messages to be sent over long distances using sound, light, or written symbols.
- **Phonograph:** A device that records and plays back sound by using a needle to trace grooves on a rotating disc or cylinder, converting the vibrations into audible sound.
- **Quadruplex telegraph:** A machine that can send two signals in two different directions on the same wire.
- **Inventor:** A person who invents, or creates and designs, something that has not existed before.

**Educational Standards:** CCRA.R.7, CCRA.L.1, CCRA.L.2, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.SL.2

**Academic Subject Areas:** Biography, Science, Historical Figures

### What You'll Need

- Video: *Thomas Edison: The Innovator of the Light Bulb* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Thomas Edison: The Innovator of the Light Bulb* (Click [Here](#))

### Lesson Plan (45 minutes)



### Warm-Up: (15 minutes)

1. Begin the lesson by dimming the lights and asking students to imagine a world without electricity. Have them close their eyes and picture how different their lives would be without light bulbs, phones, or recorded music. Call on a few students to share their thoughts.
2. Then, tell them that in today's lesson, they will learn about someone who helped bring light, sound, and communication to the world—a famous inventor named Thomas Edison. But here's the twist: he did all of this even though he faced challenges that would make most people give up.
3. Ask students to share any prior knowledge they might have of him.
4. Display a copy of the "Thomas Edison Worksheet" and hand out individual copies to students.
5. Initiate a discussion by asking:
  - What is an inventor?
  - What does an inventor do?
  - Can you think of a famous inventor and his/her invention?
  - What problem does this invention solve?
6. Instruct students to complete the Warm-Up Activity independently or with a partner. Allow students to share examples aloud.
7. Preview the remainder of the worksheet together so students know what to listen for during the video.
8. Explain that they will watch a video about how Thomas Edison overcame challenges to create an invention that improved the world.

### Watch and Complete: (20 minutes)

1. Watch the video.
2. Students will complete the worksheet as they watch the video. Pause the video throughout to allow students to answer questions.

### Wrap-Up: (10-15 minutes)

1. Allow students 10 minutes to complete the worksheet independently.
2. Collect as formative assessment or discuss in class.
3. Ask students to share responses to Worksheet Question #8. (Optional Extension Activity: Instruct students to sketch their inventions in the space below question #8 and present them to the class.)
4. Bring the lesson to a close by asking open-ended questions to check for understanding:
  - How do you think Thomas Edison's inventions have changed the way we live today?
  - What challenges did Thomas Edison face, and how did he overcome them?
  - Why do you think it's important to keep trying even when things are difficult, like Thomas Edison did?

- What do you think life would be like if Thomas Edison hadn't invented the light bulb or the phonograph?
  - What invention of Edison's do you think was the most important, and why?
  - How can you use your own creativity and ideas to make the world a better place, just like Edison did?
5. Remind students that they have the power to change the world with their ideas. Instead of sitting around and being consumers, they can be doers, creators, and improvers. The world needs minds like theirs to make it a better place!

**Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 minutes)**

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.