



## Thomas Edison Quiz

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. Why did Thomas Edison's mother pull him out of school?

- a. Because young Thomas's behavior annoyed his teachers
- b. Because she didn't want her son to learn about biology
- c. Because she needed him to work on the family farm
- d. He asked her to, so that he could start his own business

### 2. Edison once said, "Genius is 1 percent inspiration, 99 percent perspiration." What did he mean?

- a. That working in the lab all day makes you sweaty
- b. That a great idea is useless if you don't have good work habits
- c. That being a genius is not all it's cracked up to be
- d. That great ideas are often inspired through exercise

### 3. How was the telegraph different from the telephone?

- a. The telephone could both send and receive information; the telegraph could only receive information
- b. The telephone could transmit information over long distances; the telegraph only worked over short distances
- c. The telephone could transmit a human voice; the telegraph could only transmit electric pulses
- d. The telegraph needed wires to transmit messages; the telephone was originally a wireless device

### 4. At age 14, Edison became an entrepreneur, selling candy and newspapers to railway passengers. What does "entrepreneur" mean?

- a. Someone who becomes wealthy at a young age
- b. An inventor
- c. A newspaper reporter
- d. Someone who starts his own business

### 5. Place these events in sequence: A) Edison invents the phonograph; B) Edison begins his power company; C) Edison moves to New Jersey

- a. C, B, A
- b. A, C, B
- c. C, A, B
- d. A, B, C

### 6. How did Edison's phonograph capture sound?

- a. On magnetic tape
- b. On flat plastic discs
- c. As bits of digital information
- d. On wax cylinders covered with tinfoil

### 7. What was new about Edison's power distribution system?

- a. It generated power at a central station and distributed it to homes and businesses through wires
- b. It provided power to people's homes and businesses without wires
- c. It provided power to remote rural areas
- d. It allowed every home to have its own telegraph machine

### 8. Thomas Edison's nickname was the "Wizard of Menlo Park." Why do you think he got this nickname?

- a. He was an amateur magician
- b. His inventions seemed almost magical to people back then
- c. He claimed his inventions were inspired by mysterious forces
- d. He invented things without having to work hard on them

### 9. Which of the following statements is an opinion about Thomas Edison?

- a. Edison invented the phonograph
- b. Edison had the most brilliant mind of the 19th Century
- c. Edison was hard of hearing
- d. A rest stop on the New Jersey Turnpike is named after Thomas Edison

### 10. Where did Thomas Edison grow up?

- a. Menlo Park, NJ
- b. New York City
- c. Port Huron, MI
- d. Suffern, NY