Thomas Edison Quiz

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