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GREAT MOMENTS IN SCIENCE

Thomas Edison Invents the Light Bulb

Take a Stand

Edison started working for a railroad company when he was only 12 years old. Today, there are laws that state children at such a young age cannot take jobs. Do you think 12-year-olds are too young to be working? At what age do you think it is appropriate to begin working?



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Why Do I Care?

Incandescent bulbs are rarely used now. New light bulb technologies are more efficient and safer. However, Edison's invention is still important. It allowed light bulbs to enter widespread use. Imagine your life without light bulbs. How would you live differently? Are there things you would be unable to do without electric light?



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Another View

This book discusses Thomas Edison's invention of the light bulb in the late 1800s. As you know, every source is different. Ask a librarian or another adult to help you find another source about this event. Write a short essay comparing and contrasting the new source's point of view with that of this book's author. What is the point of view of each author? How are they similar and why? How are they different and why?



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You Are There

This book discusses not only Edison's contributions to the light bulb, but also his assistants, such as Francis Upton. Imagine you are one of Edison's assistants. Write a letter home talking about the progress you've been making and what it's like to work with Edison. Was it exciting to be part of such a historic discovery?



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