

## Electricity & Energy

### The Light Bulb

Thomas Edison invented the light bulb in 1879. Ironically, barely anyone in America had **access**<sup>1</sup> to electricity. They couldn't use the new invention. Edison worked to solve this problem. He helped develop power plants so they could **distribute**<sup>2</sup> electricity over wires to homes and businesses. Once electricity reached customers across the nation, everyone had light bulbs.

Light bulbs literally changed the way people lived. Before, people **strained**<sup>3</sup> to read by candlelight. Now, they could read comfortably with adequate light. The invention of the light bulb also led to the invention of other electrical items. Soon, refrigerators, electric heaters, and radios also helped people live more easily.

Imagine what your life would be like without light bulbs. You would have to keep a lot of candles at home. The streets would be so dark you probably would not go out after sundown. A simple little light bulb has made all the difference in the world. It has created a high level of convenience and security for the human race.

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<sup>1</sup> **access** - a way to enter or use

<sup>2</sup> **distribute** - to deliver a product to various places

<sup>3</sup> **strained** - not natural, forced

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

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

1. Which of the following would best replace “Ironically” in the second sentence of the first paragraph?
  - a. Strangely enough,
  - b. Happily enough,
  - c. As Edison would have it,
  - d. Just like he planned,
  
2. Edison helped to make electricity available to everyone and therefore they
  - a. read by candlelight.
  - b. stayed in the dark.
  - c. used light bulbs.
  - d. strained their eyes.
  
3. Without electricity, it is most difficult to read at what time of day?
  - a. at noontime.
  - b. around 3 o'clock in the afternoon.
  - c. at 8 a.m.
  - d. at 10 p.m.
  
4. The second part of the passage tells you about
  - a. other electrical inventions.
  - b. how the light bulb changed how people lived.
  - c. how Edison worked to create power plants.
  - d. how much people loved Edison's invention.
  
5. According to the passage, the light bulb led to the invention of all of the following things *except*
  - a. automobiles.
  - b. refrigerators.
  - c. electric heaters.
  - d. radios.

6. Based on what you've read in the passage, what are the character traits that best describe Thomas Edison?

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7. How has the light bulb created a high level of convenience and security for people?

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8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

If there were no light bulbs, \_\_\_\_\_ the streets would be so dark you probably would not go out after sundown.

- a. both
- b. then
- c. even
- d. either

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Thomas Edison helped develop power plants to distribute electricity over wires to homes and businesses.

Who? Thomas Edison

(did) What? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

10. **Vocabulary Word:** access: a way to enter or use.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Teacher Guide and Answers****Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 750**Featured Text Structure:** Descriptive – the writer explains, defines or illustrates a concept or topic**Passage Summary:** The passage describes Thomas Edison’s invention of the light bulb, how he helped develop power plants, and how they changed the way people lived.

1. Which of the following would best replace “Ironically” in the second sentence of the first paragraph?
  - a. **Strangely enough,**
  - b. Happily enough,
  - c. As Edison would have it,
  - d. Just like he planned,
  
2. Edison helped to make electricity available to everyone and therefore they
  - a. read by candlelight.
  - b. stayed in the dark.
  - c. **used light bulbs.**
  - d. strained their eyes.
  
3. Without electricity, it is most difficult to read at what time of day?
  - a. at noontime.
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  - d. **at 10 p.m.**
  
4. The second part of the passage tells you about
  - a. other electrical inventions.
  - b. **how the light bulb changed how people lived.**
  - c. how Edison worked to create power plants.
  - d. how much people loved Edison’s invention.
  
5. According to the passage, the light bulb led to the invention of all of the following things *except*
  - a. **automobiles.**
  - b. refrigerators.
  - c. electric heaters.
  - d. radios.

6. Based on what you've read in the passage, what are the character traits that best describe Thomas Edison?

**Suggested answer:** Answers will vary but should describe Thomas Edison as smart, hardworking, and someone who had good ideas to help people live more safely and conveniently.

7. How has the light bulb created a high level of convenience and security for people?

**Suggested answer:** Light bulbs create convenience because we can use them to read and do other activities at night. It creates security by lighting our houses and streets, which makes it safer to go outside at night.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

If there were no light bulbs, \_\_\_\_\_ the streets would be so dark you probably would not go out after sundown.

- a. both
- b. then**
- c. even
- d. either

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Thomas Edison helped develop power plants to distribute electricity over wires to homes and businesses.

Who? Thomas Edison

(did) What? **helped develop power plants**

Why? **to distribute electricity over wires**

Where? **to homes and businesses**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** access: a way to enter or use.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.