

## 04 - Edison

This episode is inspired by the real story of Thomas Edison.

3 facts from today's episode:

Thomas Edison invented the phonograph (record player), kinetoscope (film projector) and mimeograph (early copy machine)

Edison did so poorly in school he had to be home-schooled by his Mom.

Edison has over 1,000 patents (ideas registered with the government) for his inventions, the most for any individual American.

Additional facts we left out, for YOU to share before or after the episode.

Edison set up his first lab in his parent's basement - when he was just ten years old!

His first two children, a boy and a girl, had the nicknames Dash and Dot, a reference to Edison's early years working in the telegraph office, which inspired his interest in communications.

Followup questions for after the episode:

What do you know about Thomas Edison?

How do you think people invent things?

What would YOU like to invent?

Fun home exercise:

This exercise will get your kids thinking about inventions, by focusing on how the light bulb changed the world.

Have the kids imagine and discuss what life would have been like BEFORE Edison created commercial light bulbs in 1879.

Then have them list ways that light bulbs made life easier and safer.

You can also have them imagine it's 1880 and they are in charge of convincing people to buy lightbulbs for the first time. Ask them to draw a poster advertising "THE NEW ELECTRIC LIGHT" and encourage them to include visual examples of how the lightbulb will make people's lives better.

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