

Life of Thomas Edison

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Standards

- IRA.1.5 ...demonstrate an understanding of reading as the process of constructing meaning through the interaction of the reader's existing knowledge, the information suggested by the written language, and the context of the reading situation
- IRA.7.3 ...teach students to connect prior knowledge with new information
- IRA.8.4 ...teach students strategies to organize and remember information

Resources

[The Life of Thomas Edison](#)

Overview and Rationale

Students will participate in a lesson that examines the accomplishments of the inventor Thomas Edison. They will connect prior knowledge with new information while analyzing the benefits of his historical inventions and how they've shaped modern society.

Objectives

Students will be able to complete a KWL chart about Thomas Edison.

Students will investigate three of Thomas Edison's inventions and his life by using the Library of Congress website.

Students will be able to write about how the three inventions have impacted their lives.

Students will create a short presentation, skit, or poster about their new knowledge.

Materials

KWL charts

Computers with Internet Access

Poster Materials (markers, pencils, posterboard)

PowerPoint

Pencils

Graphic Organizers

Journals

Procedure

1.) Begin by flicking the lights on and off, talking on the phone, and then playing the radio. Ask students what they think all of these things have in common. Explain that these are all things that Edison helped to invent.

2.) Ask students to begin a KWL chart. They will fill out what they know and what they would like to know.

3.) Show students a short clip about the life of Thomas Edison.

4.) Hand out graphic organizers and place students in groups of four.

5.) Ask students to use the Library of Congress website to discover information about Edison. They should be filling out the graphic organizer as they find information on the website.

6.) In groups, have students decide whether to make a poster, skit, or PowerPoint presentation that details the life of Thomas Edison and what they found out about at least three inventions.

7.) Have students present what they have created to the class and then complete their KWL charts.

8.) Students will then write a journal entry that details how the three inventions that they researched have impacted their lives.

Assessment

Students will be assessed with the following checklist:

Completion of the KWL chart____(10pts)

Journal Entry_____(10pts)

Oral Presentation:_____(30 pts)

- Brief information about Edison____(10pts)
- Visuals_____(5pts)
- Information about three inventions____(15pts)

Total: ____/50