

# Thomas Edison KWL

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## Standards

- IL.5.A STANDARD: Locate, organize, and use information from various sources to answer questions, solve problems and communicate ideas.
- IL.5.A.1a > Identify questions and gather information.
- IL-PTS.1.I P: TCT designs learning experiences to promote student skills in the use of technologies appropriate to the discipline.
- IRA.7.3 ...teach students to connect prior knowledge with new information
- IRA.8.4 ...teach students strategies to organize and remember information

## Resources

[Library of Congress Website](#)

## Overview and Rationale

Students will use a KWL chart to jumpstart a research activity about the inventor Thomas Edison. After use of the KWL chart as a class, students will individually search the Library of Congress website to learn more about Thomas Edison, and take notes. Next, teacher will read aloud a story to the class about the inventor. Class will then use the information that they learned from the website, as well as the story to fill in the "What we Learned" section of the KWL chart. Students will complete lesson by designing an invention of their own.

## Objectives

Upon completion of the lesson, students will be able to complete a KWL chart on Thomas Edison using information that they have gathered. Students will also be able to design their own invention after seeing examples of other inventions.

## **Materials**

- Access to computer lab
- KWL chart
- Paper
- Rulers
- Pens and pencils
- children's book "Thomas Edison" by Elizabeth Maclead

## **Procedure**

1. Teacher presents lesson by asking class what they know about Thomas Edison.
2. Using a large KWL cart at the front of the classroom, teacher fills out the "What we know" (about Thomas Edison) part of the chart by asking for student volunteers.
3. Teacher now asks class about what they "Want to know" about Thomas Edison, and the students help to fill in the appropriate section of the chart.
4. Teacher now will read aloud the children's book "Thomas Edison" by Elizabeth Maclead.
5. While reading, teacher will ask thought provoking questions to ensure comprehension amongst the students.
6. After reading, teacher and class will add to the "Want to know" section, and possibly to the "Learned" section of the KWL chart.
7. Students are put into pairs. Each pair is assigned to a different question to research.
8. In the computer lab, partners use the Library Of Congress website to research the question that the have been assigned.
9. Class will come together as a whole to complete the "Learned" section of the KWL chart.

10. Teacher will read aloud entire chart.

11. Class will sit in a circle on the floor to have a wrap-up discussion on the inventor Thomas Edison. Teacher will lead discussion by asking questions such as "What do you think makes a good invention?" and, "What are some of the inventions that we learned about?"

12. Back in groups back at desks, students will brainstorm and design their own invention. Teacher will move from group to group to provide assistance.

\*Extension- Provide various materials and have students build a physical model from the design of their invention.

## **Assessment**

Did each student contribute information when filling out the KWL chart?

Did student follow directions in the computer lab?

Did student participate during discussion?

Did student contribute to the group when designing an invention?

## **Reflection**