**Thomas Edison**

Thomas Edison, a leader of American innovation, was responsible for developing many modern devices. He created the first organized industrial research laboratory where he and a team of scientists and innovators brought to life home electricity, the light bulb, car batteries, movies, music players, and thousands of other innovations. Through a video and primary source activities, students will learn about Edison’s remarkable business of innovation and some of his 1,093 patented devices.

1. The phonograph was one of Edison’s most famous inventions, but which of his inventions do you use most often today?

2. Edison is also credited with inventing the first light bulb. How do you think access to light twenty-four hours a day changed people’s lives in the late 1800s?

3. Edison once wrote, “Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.” What do you think he meant by this?

4. Edison was known as the “Wizard of Menlo Park.” Why do you think he was called this? Is it a fitting label for him?

5. Although Edison is credited with many inventions, he often collaborated with other innovators and scientists, particularly once he moved his laboratory from Menlo Park to West Orange, New Jersey in 1887. What label other than the “Wizard of Menlo Park” might also be fitting for Edison?