

Name: _____ Date: _____

Thank You, Thomas Edison

Main Idea Independent Practice

Directions: *Read the passage below and think about the important ideas and details about Thomas Edison. Then circle the best answer for each question.*

- 1 Thomas Edison was a famous inventor. He lived long ago, but he made things that make our life better today.
- 2 When Thomas was little, things did not look very hopeful for him. His teachers didn't think he could do anything. All he did in school was ask questions. Thomas didn't do his homework. He wouldn't sit still. His test grades were not very good. "He will not amount to anything," all the people said. But his mother did not agree. At last she had to teach him at home.
- 3 Thomas loved to do experiments. At home he could do many different kinds. Sadly, most of them did not work. Once when he was mixing chemicals, he set the barn on fire. It burned to the ground. Even that unlucky event did not stop his experiments.
- 4 When he grew up, Thomas moved to Menlo Park, a town in New Jersey. In the early 1900's, people used gas to light their streets and houses. Thomas saw that the gas lights were dangerous. They started many fires. Their smell made people sick.
- 5 Thomas set out to invent a better light. He would make light with electricity. He worked at it for a whole year. Thomas said that he thought of 3,000 ways to make electric light. At last, he finally did it. He invented the electric light bulb. Everybody wanted the new electric light bulbs. They put them in their homes and shops. They put them in schools and office buildings. Thomas became famous. People called him "The Wizard of Menlo Park."
- 6 Thomas Edison invented many things. The one we remember best is the electric light bulb. It changed the world forever. The next time you flip on the lights in your house, stop and say, "Thank you, Thomas Edison."

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1. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?
 - A. Thomas asked lots of questions.
 - B. Thomas did not do his homework.
 - C. Thomas had a good mother.
 - D. Thomas was not a good student.

2. What is the main idea of paragraph 3?
 - A. Thomas did many experiments at home.
 - B. Thomas had trouble with his experiments.
 - C. One time Thomas burned down a barn.
 - D. Thomas was unlucky.

3. What is the main idea of paragraph 4?
 - A. Menlo Park was home to Thomas.
 - B. People used gas to light street lamps.
 - C. Gas lights are dangerous.
 - D. Gas lights started fires.

4. What is the main idea of paragraph 5?
 - A. Thomas invented the electric light.
 - B. The invention took a long time to make.
 - C. People wanted the new electric light.
 - D. Thomas got a nickname.

5. What is the main idea of paragraph 6?
 - A. Thomas Edison liked to invent many different things.
 - B. Electric light bulbs are important to people.
 - C. People should thank Thomas Edison for the light bulb.
 - D. Thomas Edison is known for inventing the light bulb.

6. On a separate sheet of paper, complete a Main Idea Graphic Organizer for one paragraph from this selection.

Passage adapted from Taking the High Road to Reading, Writing, and Listening (2-2)