

# **TIMELESS THOMAS**

## **HOW THOMAS EDISON CHANGED OUR LIVES**

**K-3**

**Written and Illustrated  
By Gene Barretta  
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### ***Story Summary***

Thomas Alva Edison, also known as “The Wizard of Menlo Park,” is responsible for numerous inventions that are relevant to our daily lives in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In the late 1800’s and the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century he worked with a team of scientists who were dedicated to making our lives better with innovative technology. In addition to the light bulb, most often associated with Edison, you will learn from this video that he is responsible for many things we use in our daily lives. These include such diverse inventions as motion pictures, vending machines and cement.

### ***Objectives***

1. The children will develop an appreciation for what it means to be an inventor.
2. The children will identify specific inventions attributed to Thomas Edison.
3. The children will develop an appreciation for some of these inventions and understand their importance to their lives.

***Before viewing the video***

Tell the children they are going to view a video about an important American inventor named Thomas Edison. They will also meet Gene Barretta, author of this book. They will see Mr. Barretta in the Edison Museum in New Jersey. We will also see a demonstration of Edison's original cylinder phonograph. After we view this video, we will have an opportunity to talk about many of Thomas Edison's inventions that play a major role in our daily lives today.

### ***Questions to ask after viewing the video***

1. Where in the United States are Edison's museum and laboratories located?
2. We learned that Edison invented the phonograph. What other inventions were developed that depended on this model?
3. How did Edison improve Alexander Graham Bell's telephone?
4. Edison developed the battery. What are some of the ways these were used?
5. How many more of Edison's inventions can you name after viewing this video?
6. How are today's movies different from the motion pictures Edison developed?
7. Edison discovered radio waves. How do we use these today?
8. One of Edison's most important inventions is in every schoolroom and home. Why is the light bulb important to us?
9. What is your favorite part of Thomas Edison's story?

### ***Activities***

1. Have the children look around the classroom and make a list of the "inventions" they see in their surroundings.
2. "Who is the inventor?" Have an internet or library experience to determine who is credited with some of the everyday things that make our lives easier.
3. Select one of the inventions attributed to Thomas Edison in the video and encourage a discussion or writing experience that explores what life would be like without it.
4. Have a class discussion about our daily lives and brainstorm about inventions of the future. Have a written language experience: "If I Were An Inventor."