



**Objective:**

1. The students will be able to tell about some of Thomas Edison’s inventions, and his place in Florida history.

**Sunshine State Standards Benchmarks:**

SS.A.1.2.1 – SS.A.6.2.3

**Vocabulary:**

patents      phonograph      leisure      inquisitive      dull  
voracious      basement      telegraph      manipulating      filament  
convenience

**Suggested Activities:**

1. Place the students into cooperative groups. Assign each group one of Edison’s inventions, such as the phonograph, electric light, motion-picture camera, and the telegraphic vote-recording machine. Have the students research these inventions, write a report (along with illustrations), and present to the class.
2. Ask the students to consider themselves inventors, and create a new invention for the 21st century. Like Edison, the inventions should satisfy real needs, and “increase the convenience and pleasure of mankind.” The students do not need to create the real object, just a written report and picture/model about their invention.
3. Invite a guest speaker to discuss with the students how the patenting process works.
4. Have the students create a Character Map or Character Frame for Thomas Alva Edison.
5. Complete and review FCAT questions.

(Note: Actual FCAT practice passages are written at the students’ independent reading level. These Florida History selections are written at the students’ instructional reading level. Therefore, students should not be asked to complete the questions until after receiving class instruction on the vocabulary and content of the passage. Students should also read the Florida History selection independently before answering the FCAT questions and be permitted to return to the selection for rereading as they answer.)