



## A Bright Idea

Have you ever been in your house at night when the power went out? You flipped the light switch, and nothing happened. It was dark and maybe a little scary until your mom found a candle or flashlight and lit it so you could see again. Electricity and light bulbs are things we take for granted every day. We don't realize just how important they are to us until we don't have them. A very special man named Thomas Edison was born on February 11, 1847. Being highly intelligent and extremely curious, he wanted to know how things worked, which led him to do many experiments. His experiments resulted in multiple inventions, including the first successful light bulb. He also made improvements to other things like the telephone, telegraph, and motion picture camera.

When a person invents something and does not want anyone else to claim his idea, he applies for a patent, which gives him legal credit for the invention. Mr. Edison was granted 1,093 United States patents – more than any other individual in American history. We owe a lot to Mr. Edison for his hard work. Because of his experiments with electricity and his invention of the light bulb, you are able to sit in a brightly lit classroom and read this story.

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**Directions:** Please choose the correct answer and write its alphabet letter on the space in front of the appropriate question.

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|---|----------------------|
| _____ 1. In the story, who was born on February 11, 1847? | a. the light bulb    |
| _____ 2.. What was Thomas Edison curious to know?         | b. Thomas Edison     |
| _____ 3. What did his curiosity lead him to do?           | c. 1,093             |
| _____ 4. What was one of his most important inventions?   | d. how things worked |
| _____ 5. How many U.S. patents did Mr. Edison receive?    | e. many experiments  |