

Thomas Edison National Historical Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
211 Main Street
West Orange, New Jersey 07052



What Is A Junior Ranger?

Junior Rangers *Explore, Learn and Protect* National Parks.

How to use this book

Work like Mr. Edison and hire a few muckers (your family/friends) and Park Rangers to work through the problems. Mr. Edison believed problems are best solved when a good experimenter (you) and a few workers (family and friends) combine their talents to finish the project.

REQUIRED Activities for Junior Ranger Badge

Ages 5-8 Complete any 3 Activities for the Jr. Ranger Badge

Ages 9 and up Complete any 5 activities for the Jr. Ranger Badge

Bonus Activity for Junior Ranger Badge and Patch

☐ Complete required activities above and answer the Junior Ranger Bonus Questions

AND ALSO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

☐ Attend a Ranger led talk or watch the orientation movie. What did you learn?

Talk Attended _____ Ranger's Initials _____

WHO WAS THOMAS EDISON?

Since he was a little boy, Thomas Edison asked questions. As an inventor, he was determined to find the answers to his questions.

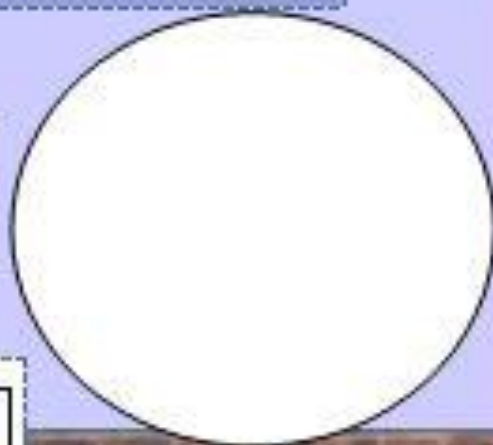
Write the questions that you have about Thomas Edison and then as you explore the park note the things you learned about the laboratory and the inventions made here. Can you find the answers to your questions as you explore the park?

Questions I have about Thomas Edison and his Laboratory.	Things I learned about Thomas Edison from a ranger talk, the orientation movie, or what I read.

HIS IMAGE: Activity 1

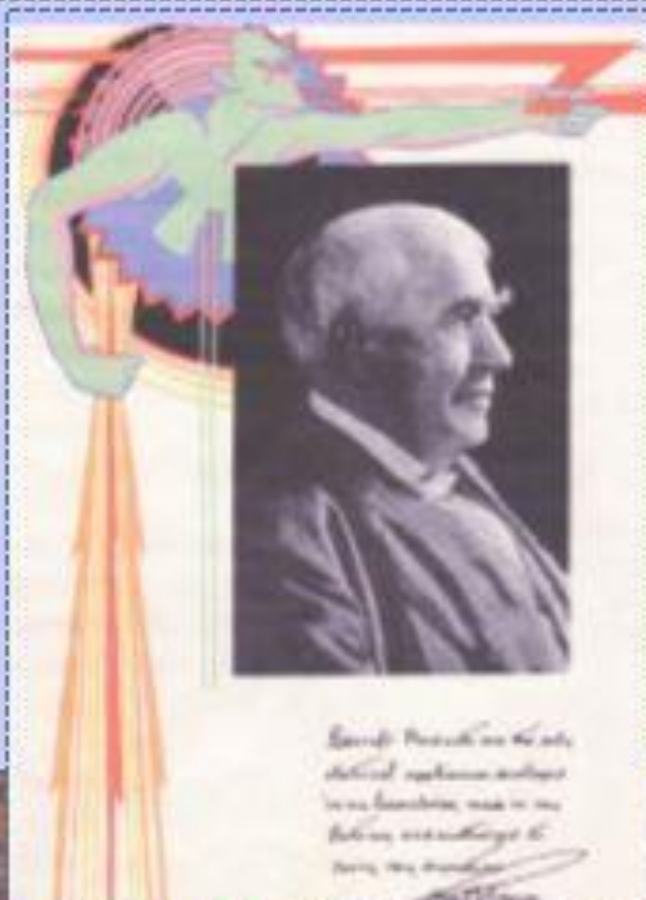
Thomas Edison's success made him famous, but he was much more than an inventor. As a businessman he used this fame to his advantage by putting his name, picture and signature on all sorts of products and advertising. Eventually customers came to trust that the Edison brand meant quality.

If you used your face as a logo what would it look like?



A black and white image of Thomas Edison's signature, 'Thomas A. Edison', written in a cursive script.

Write your fanciest signature here:

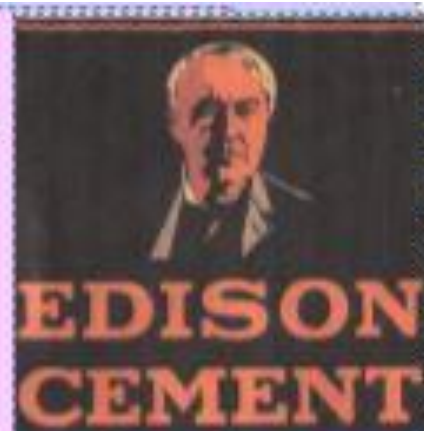


Where did you find Edison's logo as you explored the Laboratory Complex today?

TIMELINE: Activity 2

Create a timeline, placing each letter of the following events in Thomas Edison's life on the proper date below:

- A. Edison opens Pearl Street Station. The first electric light system in New York City.
- B. Edison receives the first of 1093 patents. He is only 22 years old.
- C. Edison dies at his home in West Orange.
- D. Edison invents the phonograph.
- E. Edison builds his Laboratory Complex in West Orange, NJ.
- F. Edison is born in Milan, Ohio.



1847

1869

1877

1882

1887

1931



FIND WHAT CHANGED IN THE LIBRARY: Activity 3

Observation is an important skill when experimenting. Circle all the things that are different in the Library today compared with this picture of the Library from the early 1900's.



FIND THESE ITEMS IN THE LIBRARY: Activity 3A

Match these objects in the library to their description



Cubic Foot of Copper

This Greek mythological musician traded his lyre (or harp) for a Diamond Disc

Movie Screen

Edison was spending so much time in the Labs that he would work late into the night. His wife, Mina, brought a cot to the library for Mr. Edison to sleep on.

Edison's Desk

This angel is sitting on a broken gas lamp holding up an Edison light bulb. The statue was purchased by Thomas Edison in 1889.

Edison's Sleeping Cot

A gift Edison received in response to his challenge that it would be impossible to make a perfect cubic foot of copper.

Statue of Orpheus

Locked on the day of his death. Reopened by his wife Mina in 1947. Multiple cubby holes demonstrates Edison's work style of taking on many different projects and subjects at once.

Laboratory Complex Picture

Genius of Light

This stuffed bird was equipped with glowing eyes thanks to electricity.

Bald Eagle

Used by Edison and staff to view his motion pictures.

Aerial photograph of the entire lab complex showing both the research laboratory and the manufacturing buildings.

MOVIES - STORYBOARD:

Activity 4

The Thomas Edison National Historical Park is often considered the birthplace of motion pictures. This is where the laboratory team invented the motion picture camera, built the Black Maria, and developed fundamental technology to produce and exhibit motion pictures. Can you find examples of this technology throughout the Laboratory Complex?

Edison's early films relied on photography. The film "The Kiss", made in the Black Maria, (seen right) was a series of images or frames shown in rapid succession.

*You can watch "The Kiss" and other movies made by Edison by visiting the 2nd floor of Building 5.



Imagine you are a film maker working for Thomas Edison. He has asked you to make a film called "The Falling Cup". You have three frames to show, (**Storyboard**), a cup falling from a table, and breaking on the ground. **Draw** your movie in the boxes provided. *If you don't like to draw, you can write what should be shown in the box.*





Your next activity is on the 3rd floor.

ADVERTISING AND SELLING THE PRODUCT: Activity 5



Edison wasn't just an inventor. He was the boss of the entire Edison Company, which included a Sales and Marketing Department. He employed artists and sales managers to make sure people bought his products.

What product do you think is being sold in this picture?

Who do you think it is being marketed to?

Would you buy this product after seeing this advertisement? Explain:

How would you change this ad to make it work for you?

Ask a Ranger or Volunteer where Mr. Edison manufactured his products. What did you find out?

ADVERTISING AND SELLING THE PRODUCT: Activity 5A

Pretend you are a representative for the National Park Service. Use a combination of words and pictures to create an advertisement about the Thomas Edison National Historical Park to try to get kids to visit the park.

JUNIOR MUCKER PRACTICE: Activity 6

The three great essentials to achieve anything worthwhile are: Hard work, Stick-to-itiveness, and Common sense.

Just because something doesn't do what you planned it to do doesn't mean it's useless.

Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.



If we did all the things we are capable of, we would literally astound ourselves.

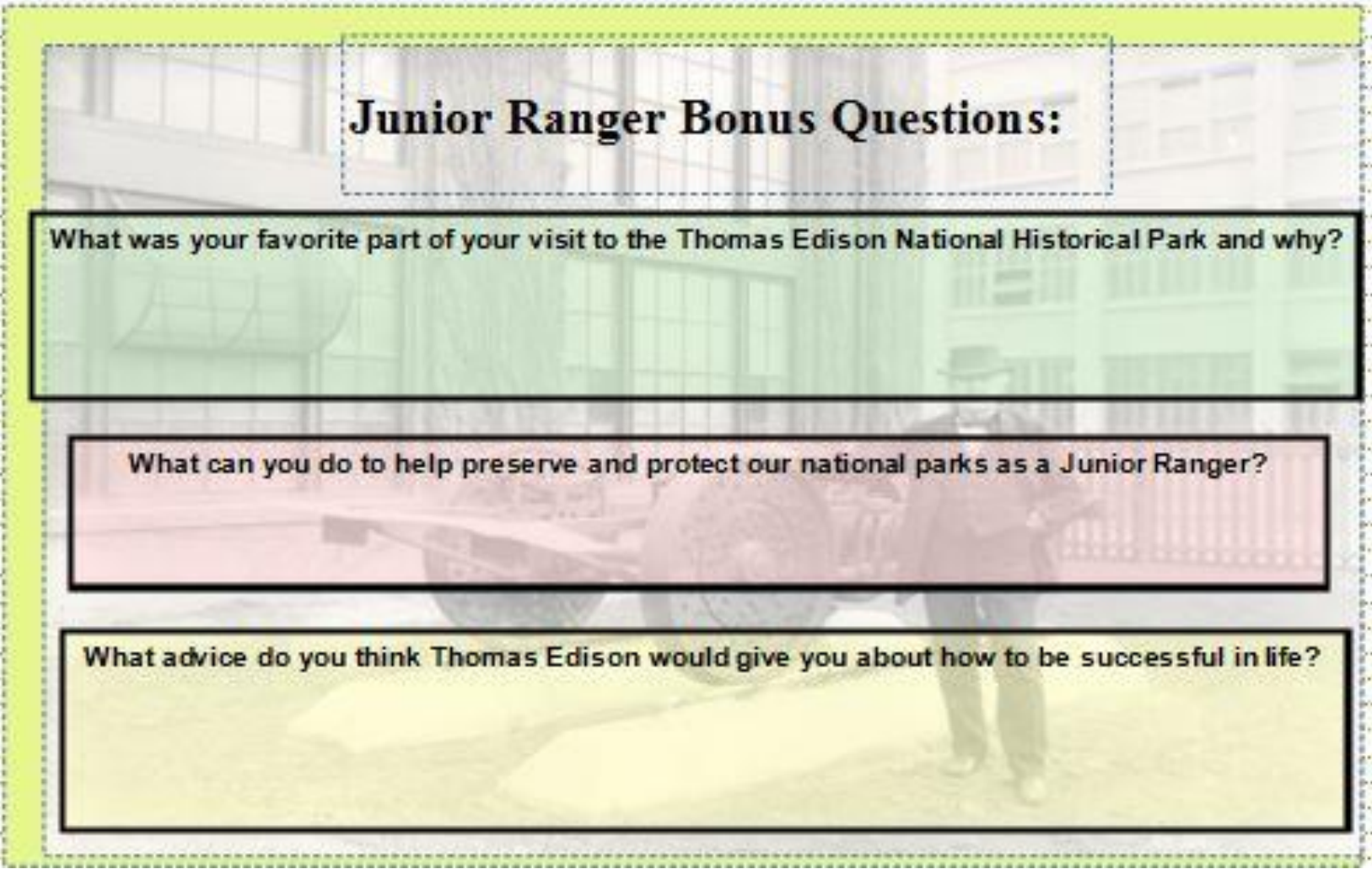
I have more respect for the fellow with a single idea who gets there than for the fellow with a thousand ideas who does nothing.

I find out what the world needs. Then I go ahead and try to invent it.

Pick your favorite Edison quote from above or make up one of your own and tell us what it means to you:

Congratulations! You have worked hard as a mucker, now try your hand at inventing! Explore your creativity and change the world! Don't worry if it doesn't work the first time. In the space below **draw** your invention.





Junior Ranger Bonus Questions:

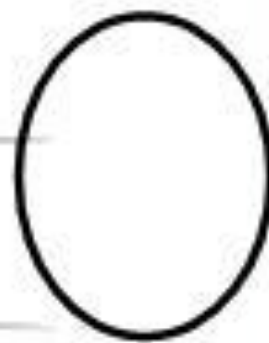
What was your favorite part of your visit to the Thomas Edison National Historical Park and why?

What can you do to help preserve and protect our national parks as a Junior Ranger?

What advice do you think Thomas Edison would give you about how to be successful in life?

Junior Ranger

In Recognition Of The Efforts Of



Junior Ranger Stamp

Junior Ranger Pledge:

I promise to learn all I can about Thomas Edison NHP and to share my knowledge with others. I also promise to enjoy and protect all National Parks.

Junior Ranger

Date

Ranger

Date