

**Created by:** Linda Hamilton, Cleveland PK-8

**Grade level:** 8

**Primary Source Citation:** Thomas Alva Edison visiting his birthplace in Milan, Ohio, August 11, 1923, photograph by C.S. Bateman, SC 2621, AL00737, Ohio Historical Society. Accessed at *OhioMemory.org*, <http://www.ohiomemory.org/cdm/ref/collection/p267401coll32/id/5199>

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the photograph located at the above link while answering the questions below in order. These questions will prepare students to think critically when observing primary source documents, particularly photographs.

**Level I: Description**

1. What details do you see in this photograph?
2. Who is the man in this photograph?

**Level II: Interpretation**

1. What is the connection between the man and the building?
2. Why was this photograph taken?

**Level III: Analysis**

1. What is the significance of taking this photograph?
2. During what period of time was the photograph taken? How do you know?



Thomas A. Edison at his Birthplace, Milbury, N. J., 1873  
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